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GCC head holds talks in Bahrain

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahraini Foreign Minister Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa held talks here Wednesday with a top Gulf envoy trying to defuse tension over a territorial dispute between Bahrain and Qatar. The secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Jamil Al Hujailan, briefed Sheikh Mohammad about proposals from GCC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, the official Gulf News Agency said. Foreign ministers from the four-country reconciliation committee met Tuesday in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to try to find a compromise as both Bahrain and Qatar have voiced reservations over a previous formula for an accord. Mr. Hujailan was due to visit Qatar later Wednesday to discuss the compromise proposal. A Gulf official said. The draft which the committee has submitted to Manama and Doha does not concern the territorial conflict, which has been brought before the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

U.S. sees 'struggles for power' in Iraq

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House said on Wednesday it sees internal "struggles for power" going on in Iraq for control. White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry, asked for his assessment of reports by a senior U.S. military official that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has put his wife under house arrest (see page 12), said: "There are a great deal of complicated internal struggles for power" going on. "There have been some things that have happened recently that have been reported publicly that would indicate some internal machinations." Mr. McCurry said. Mr. McCurry said the United States was "closely monitoring" the situation in Iraq. "The president also has foremost on his mind the threats to regional security, particularly in the Persian Gulf," Mr. McCurry said, adding that there were no indications of troop movements that would suggest any renewed threat to Kuwait.

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Israeli jets raid Hizbollah stronghold

SIDON (AFP) — Israeli warplanes raided suspected positions of the Hizbollah in southern Lebanon on Wednesday, police said. Four Israeli jets fired missiles at the Iqlim Al Tuffah region, a stronghold of Hizbollah guerrillas near the southern port city of Sidon, police said. There was no immediate word of casualties or damage. In Israel, a military spokesman said "the planes hit their targets and returned safely to base."

Iraq accuses Iran of operating its planes

BAGHDAD (AFP) — An Iraqi official on Wednesday accused Iran of operating two of the five civilian Iraqi Airways jets which were flown to Iran for safety during the 1991 Gulf war. The general manager of Iraqi Airways, Rabin Mohammad Saleh, told the official Al Jumhuriyah newspaper he "had solid information that Iran is using two of our five planes to fly passengers on domestic routes."

S. Arabia protests over detention in Iran

PRETORIA (AFP) — South Africa's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that it had lodged "a strong protest" with Iran over the detention without trial of a South African tourist in Tehran. Foreign affairs spokesman Marco Bori said 27-year-old Stuart Timm, has been held without charge since he was arrested by Iranian authorities on Jan. 12. "They (Iranians) claim his travel documents are not in order, but have not explained the reason for his lengthy detention," Mr. Bori said. "They say investigations are continuing." The director-general of South Africa's Foreign Affairs Department, Rusty Evans, also met Iran's ambassador to Pretoria on Tuesday to discuss the matter. "Mr. Timm was working on a social programme in neighbouring Turkmenistan and visited Iran with a Swiss companion to buy leather when they were arrested, according to the SAPA news agency."

Royal yacht plan too taxing for Britons

LONDON (R) — Britons oppose a plan to build a new royal yacht, a poll of 100,000 people in the country has found. The poll, by the Sunday Express newspaper, said the plan, which would involve the sale of 450,000 shares, was "too expensive" for most Britons. The poll also found that 60 per cent of respondents opposed the plan, while only 24 per cent approved. The plan was announced by the Queen's consort, Princess Diana, before she was taken out of office after 14 years.

Conservatives plan to privatise U.K. taxmen

LONDON (R) — British Conservatives are drawing up plans for the privatisation of the Inland Revenue, the Sunday Express newspaper said. The plan, which would involve the sale of 450,000 shares, was "too expensive" for most Britons. The poll also found that 60 per cent of respondents opposed the plan, while only 24 per cent approved. The plan was announced by the Queen's consort, Princess Diana, before she was taken out of office after 14 years.

Dog nabbed

SALINE (AFP) — A 10-year-old dog named "Charlie" was found in a field near the town of Saline, Michigan, after being missing for several days. The dog was found by a local resident and is now being kept by the Saline Animal Shelter. The dog's owner, who is looking for the dog, has been contacted by the shelter.

Four Mideast leaders to visit U.S. in two months

Netanyahu on Feb. 13, Arafat on March 3, Mubarak on March 10 and King on March 18

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House said on Wednesday the leaders of Jordan, Israel, the Palestinians and Egypt will hold separate meetings with President Bill Clinton in the next two months.

Spokesman Mike McCurry said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would visit Washington on Feb. 13. Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will make his visit March 3, with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak coming on March 10 and King Hussein on March 18.

The U.S. president had confirmed the four visits on Tuesday and added that a resumption of negotiations between Israel and Syria would be a key subject discussed.

The visits had been expected but the dates had not been set. Mr. McCurry said the visits were separate because there was no dramatic development in the peace process that would make a summit of the leaders necessary.

"With each of these leaders we can have a somewhat more comprehensive dialogue outside the emergency context of dealing with a specific event that requires immediate focus and attention," he said.

He said in some cases the visits were scheduled for the convenience of the leaders themselves, and that the order of the trips was of no particular significance.

"These are all visits in which we will explore not only the bilateral regional concerns we have with these leaders but also seek to deepen and strengthen the Middle East peace process as we search for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region," Mr. McCurry said.

The new U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright telephoned Mr. Arafat on Tuesday to assure him she will work to advance the peace process, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

It said the secretary of state congratulated Mr. Arafat on the Jan. 15 signing of the U.S.-brokered Hebron accord for an

Israel adds 84 settlements to its list for priority funding

PRIME MINISTER Benjamin Netanyahu's government has put another 84 settlements, including Jewish enclaves in Hebron, on priority "A" and "B" lists to receive special government funding, according to a report published Wednesday.

The details of the plan were revealed in a recent cabinet meeting after the government decided late last year to grant vast financial incentives to Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The move to expand the presence of settlers in lands where Palestinians hope to create a separate state brought massive criticism against Mr. Netanyahu from around the world.

The latest decision detailed in the Haaretz newspaper brought to 123 the number of settlements slated for special financial subsidies, mostly in the realm of education. There are 144 settlements in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Among those included on the "A" list that will also receive special treatment in housing, industry, taxation and welfare are the ultra-orthodox city Emanuel and settlements in and around the West Bank city of Hebron.

Some 450 Jewish settlers live in Hebron surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

After his rise to power in June, Mr. Netanyahu decided to unfreeze settlement expansion that had been limited under the previous Labour government in efforts not to damage the peace process with the Palestinians.

Former Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer labelled as "terrible" the decision to grant settlers more grants, saying the government was doing "great harm to the weaker population centres" by drawing funding away from them.

Israeli redeployment in the West Bank. Wafa also reported that Ms. Albright said she hopes to meet the Palestinian leader on his visit to Washington.

U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk reaffirmed Tuesday that Israel alone would decide the extent of the three further troop pullouts it has promised in the West Bank.

"The further redeployment is an issue for implementation," he said.

Netanyahu 'actively' moving to resume negotiation with Syria

Khaddam: No movement towards quick talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday he is actively preparing for a resumption of peace talks with Syria even though Damascus has yet to signal its readiness to return to the negotiating table.

In other related developments: The Washington Post reported that Syria and Israel were on the verge of a peace agreement when the then-Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, decided to call early general elections in May 1996.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam said in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that there was no movement towards a quick resumption of peace talks between Syria and Israel.

In his comments on Wednesday, Mr. Netanyahu also appeared to dangle what he said were economic benefits for Syria in reaching a peace agreement with Israel.

In interviews with Israel Radio and the Haaretz newspaper, Mr. Netanyahu said he was confident peace talks frozen for the past 11 months would soon be resumed despite stark disagreement over the future of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

"It is possible for find a new formula... that allows the two sides to come from

Assad satisfied with EU bid

DAMASCUS (AFP) — President Hafez Al Assad on Wednesday backed the role which Europe plans to assume in the Middle East peace process, following talks with a European Union (EU) special envoy on restarting negotiations with Israel.

"President Assad said he was satisfied with the EU's intention to play a positive and active role to help reach a comprehensive and just peace," his spokesman Gibril Kourieh said after talks between Mr. Assad and Miguel Angel Moratinos.

Mr. Assad also "reiterated Syria's commitment to the peace process" and insisted on the need to comply with the "basic ideas" underlying this process, Mr. Kourieh told reporters.

Mr. Moratinos briefed the Syrian president on the aims of his tour and affirmed the European Union's desire "to play a positive role in the peace efforts," the spokesman added.

Mr. Moratinos came to Damascus to discuss prospects for restarting Syrian-Israeli peace talks, which were broken by a year ago.

The envoy met Tuesday with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa to discuss the EU role, the Israeli troop pull-back from Hebron, and prospects for resuming the Syrian-Israeli talks, a member of the EU delegation told AFP.

King urges democratic practices that do not harm national unity

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein reassured Jordanians Wednesday of his good health and thanked them for the affection they expressed towards him following a minor surgery in both knees he underwent on Saturday.

During a visit to the Prime Ministry, King Hussein reviewed with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti several Arab issues, the outcome of his latest phone calls with several Arab leaders and Arab solidarity.

The King and Mr. Kabariti also focused on restructuring several national economic institutions in order to increase its productivity and efficiency.

King Hussein reiterated the importance of exercising democracy in a good manner that does not harm democratic life in a way or another and called for national unity among the one Jordanian family.

The King's statement on national unity came amid a number of lectures and articles in local newspapers by leading politicians and columnists centred on relations between Jordanians of

East Bank origin and Jordanians of Palestinian origin. Minister of Public Works Abdul Hadi Majali, in a lecture delivered in Irbid earlier this week, said the Palestinian refugees who originally came from Palestine, present-day Israel, and who are, under a lasting settlement, would not be able to go back to their homes, should be considered as Jordanians.

Mr. Majali, who is also the leader of the second largest party in Jordan Al Ahd, said that Jordanians who hail from the West Bank or Gaza

are Palestinians who should practise their political rights on Palestinian soil. "Those who wish to remain Jordanians should ask for that, and then identity and loyalty should be fixed," he said.

Responding to Mr. Majali was former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri who hails from the West Bank city of Nablus. Mr. Masri described Mr. Majali's thoughts as "dangerous."

(Continued on page 7)



GANDHI ASHES: The box containing the forgotten urn with the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi at Tatnagar station in Bihar on Wednesday where the train halted en route to Allahabad where they were to be dispersed in the confluence of the Ganges (AFP PHOTO)

Beilin: Israel should leave Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel should pull its troops out of Lebanon unilaterally because a negotiated withdrawal is not within reach and too many soldiers are being killed, an Israeli legislator said Wednesday.

Yossi Beilin, a former cabinet minister and prominent member of the opposition Labour Party, said France offered to help arrange such a withdrawal last April.

However, then Prime Minister Shimon Peres turned down the proposal because he felt such a move would be unpopular especially a month before the general elections, Mr. Beilin said.

Mr. Beilin said Syria, the main power in Lebanon, would block attempts to negotiate a withdrawal because it was interested in keeping Israeli troops in southern Lebanon as a justification of the Syrian military presence.

The Israeli buffer zone was established in 1985 ostensibly to shield northern Israeli settlements from guerrilla attacks. The zone is patrolled by Israeli soldiers and the Israeli-backed South Lebanon army, a force of about 2,500.

Mr. Beilin, who was cabinet secretary in 1985 during

5 Jordanian prisoners in hospital after reported Kuwaiti beating up

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Five Jordanians remain in a Kuwaiti hospital from among 20 who were beaten up by a special forces team who stormed a prison after they made a public protest against bad conditions in detention, independent sources said Wednesday.

The Foreign Ministry, prompted by a protest action staged by family members of the prisoners, called in the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires for an explanation of the incident.

The diplomat denied the reported Jan. 22 incident at

the Selbiyah prison in Kuwait, where up to 60 Jordanians are serving term after being convicted of "collaborating" with Iraq during the August 1990-February 1991 Iraqi occupation of the emirate.

The government said it was also in touch with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as well as the Qatari and Omani authorities over the reported incident, Jordan Television reported.

The ICRC, which serves as the only link between the prisoners and their families here, declined to make any comment on the reported assault.

The all-Swiss humanitarian agency reaffirmed that it was "keen to maintain its regular visits to Jordanian prisoners held in Kuwait and send its observations to the highest prison authorities in Kuwait."

But the independent sources, who preferred anonymity, said the incident did take place and confirmed a report that appeared in a local Jordanian daily.

According to the sources, "at least 20 Jordanian prisoners were admitted to hospital and 15 of them have been discharged after treatment."

(Continued on page 7)

Former Israeli justice minister put on trial adding to premier's woes

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Former Justice Minister Yaacov Neeman went on trial Wednesday charged with fraud and obstruction of justice in the latest of a flurry of legal problems for close associates of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Neeman, who resigned his cabinet position after being indicted last year, is charged with witness tampering and providing false information to the courts in a bid to protect a leading politician, Arieh Deri, who is on trial for bribery. Mr. Neeman has denied the charges.

Mr. Deri, head of the powerful religious party Shas which is the second biggest group in Mr.

Rubinstein confirmed

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rocky effort to appoint an attorney general nearly collapsed again Wednesday when the nominee refused to undergo a lie detector test for a security clearance.

In the end, Elyakim Rubinstein was confirmed unanimously by the 18-member cabinet after agreeing to honor the conclusions of a government committee on polygraphs.

Mr. Rubinstein's appointment came after police launched an investigation into a scandal that erupted after Mr. Netanyahu earlier this month tried to appoint a Likud party loyalist to the post.

Mr. Rubinstein's appointment, by comparison, was widely hailed.

The 50-year-old judge was a legal adviser to late Premier Menachem Begin in the late 1970s, when he was instrumental in negotiating the breakthrough peace accord with Egypt. He served as cabinet secretary in Likud and Labour governments and led Israel's 1994 peace talks with Jordan.

But his confirmation was nearly scuttled when he refused to take the polygraph test. After a standoff of several hours the government decided to establish a committee, to be headed by Mr. Netanyahu and include Mr. Rubinstein, to examine the issue.

Israel extends detention of Jordanian engineer

Activists criticise government, but consul in Tel Aviv says efforts continue for man's release

By Tanya Habjouqa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A member of Parliament and an activist of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) on Wednesday accused the government of doing little to secure the release of a Jordanian detained in Israel.

The charges by Deputy Tawaj Faisal (Amman) and Mazen Rial of the JEA followed news from Israel that Hatem Istanbuli, who was detained on Dec. 26 while on his return home from a West Bank visit, was remanded in custody for another 15 days.

The Jordanian consul in Tel Aviv, Omar Nahar, rejected the charge of government inactivity and said the Kingdom's diplomatic mission in Israel was trying its best to secure the release of Mr. Istanbuli, a member of the JEA's "committee against normalisation of relations with Israel."

Arrested by the Israeli secret service Mossad and held incommunicado for the first 15 days, Mr. Istanbuli still has not been allowed contact with his family.

Hopes voiced last week that Mr. Istanbuli would be released before the 'Eid al-Fitr holiday have now been dashed by the announcement Monday by Israeli authorities of his continued detention.

"Under Israeli law, they may detain him for up to 100 days before being forced to release him," Consul Nahar said Tuesday.

Deputy Faisal expressed indignation when informed by the JEA about Mr. Istanbuli's situation, and pledged to do all that she could to help, according to Mr. Rial.

Contacted by the Jordan Times, Ms. Faisal accused the government of not doing enough to protect Jordanian citizens.

"Can we allow Israel to grant our citizens visas and then arrest them as they leave? It is a trap," Ms. Faisal told the Jordan Times.

But Shalom Tourgeman, spokesman for the Israeli embassy in Amman, said: "Mr. Istanbuli applied for and received a visa under regular procedures; there was no plot to arrest him."

Elina Mitterman, head of the Jordan division at the foreign ministry, said Mr. Istanbuli "was legally arrested and is currently under investigation as he is suspected of belonging to a terrorist organisation."

She referred further questions to the Israeli mission in Amman.

Deputy Faisal dismissed the assertion that Mr. Istanbuli was suspected of "terrorist activities" and said he was just another victim of Israeli aggression.

"His real crime is that he is a member of the JEA and opposed to normalisation of ties with Israel," she added.

"What would happen if Jordan arrested an Israeli citizen because of his political beliefs or his involvement with a party like Likud?" said Mr. Rial.

No immediate comment was available from the Prime Ministry on Wednesday.

Friends and family members have expressed concern over Mr. Istanbuli's health in detention, as he has a serious heart condition.

"He is doing fine, a physician checks him every three days. I visited him myself," Mr. Nahar said.

According to Mr. Nahar, Mr. Istanbuli is under police investigation and "as it is a security issue, there is very little we can do."

He also said that Mr. Istanbuli was in contact with his lawyer, Fadel Badarneh.

Mr. Badarneh was unable to be reached for comment Wednesday.

Mr. Istanbuli's detention has drawn severe condemnation from the JEA and the Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR) which saw that he was being detained for his political beliefs.

Both groups have been campaigning for his release, seeking help from politicians and other human interest groups.

"All efforts have failed to push our government into actively pursuing his release," said Mr. Rial, a prominent member of the JEA.

According to Mr. Rial, a joint letter sent by the JEA and the AOHR three weeks ago to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti was still unanswered.

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POPE SHENOUDA III AT BEIRUT: A believer kisses the hand of Coptic Christian Pope Shenouda III at Beirut airport during a two-hour stopover the clergyman made there on his way back home to Egypt after attending a meeting in Cyprus (AFP photo)

Cypriot MP reappears

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot politician who hid in a firing range to protest against British military exercises there re-appeared on Tuesday night after two days in the wilderness.

"I had a really good time," member of parliament (MP) Marios Matsakis told Cyprus state radio. "I spent two magical days in the Akamas."

Mr. Matsakis, an MP for the centre-right Democratic Party, was one of a party of 15 environmentalists who hid in thick bush at the firing range in the northwestern Akamas peninsula on Monday to delay the start of the exercises.

When he failed to appear on Monday evening his family filed a report to police on his disappearance. It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Matsakis appeared of his own volition or was found by police.

Police believe other activists may be hiding in the range, where British troops have started exercises with live ammunition. The firing range, covered with dense vegetation, covers an expanse of six square kilometres.

The paintings are beautiful and rare and the colours not found in any other old kingdom tomb in the western burial site at Giza," he added.

Archaeologists took almost three years to restore the limestone offering chapel of the tomb, which was discovered in 1993 buried beneath centuries of sand and rubble.

The chapel, embellished with inscriptions and colourful relief depictions of everyday life, helped unfold the story of a man who appears to have worked his way up from lowly origins.

Mr. Hawas said the writings also distinguish the tomb from any other because they list the four types of workers who built it — the sculptors, the draftsmen, the painters and sculptors whom Kai said he paid in beer and bread.

"The inscriptions on the tomb show that he wore many hats during his lifetime. He was a sailor then he became head of a sailing consignment, he was also a judicial notary and had several other titles in addition to being a priest," said archaeologist Sana'a Mohammad who worked on the tomb.

"It seems that he may have had origins that were not noble but the inscriptions say that the king made him a noble man and a trusted aide," she added.

Four burial wells were also discovered containing the remains of what archaeologists believe to be Kai, his first wife and his favourite son and daughter, pictures of whom are carefully etched on the walls of the tomb.

Mr. Hawas also said they found the remains of a pig, food for the peasant and working classes in pharaonic times.

The tomb lists the hieroglyphic name of the old kingdom pharaohs Seneferu and Chephren but archaeologists say Kai probably served in the court of pyramid-builder Cheops.

Kai also had a weakness for women and had two wives as well as a mistress but was attached to his first wife, who features prominently in the tomb and in a unique stone sketch of ancient marital bliss.

"No other tomb ever shows a woman hugging and hanging on her husband's neck like this one," Mr. Hawas said. "He was also fond of one of his daughters who is repeatedly shown clutching her father's feet."

Mr. Hawas said Kai had built another tomb for himself and the family further east and that the western tomb was originally intended for Nubereit, his favourite daughter.

But archaeologists say the earlier tomb had fewer inscriptions and listed titles of lower rank and that Kai's vanity led him to take over the western tomb rather than modify the old one.

Egypt restores priest's tomb fit for a pharaoh

GIZA (R) — Egyptian archaeologists have finished restoring a unique tomb of an ancient priest with royal pretensions who decided he would be buried as well as a pharaoh even if he could not become one.

Submerged under the desert west of the Giza pyramids, the tomb of old kingdom priest Kai and his family is the only one in the area to boast delicate, detailed inscriptions and bright colours the like of which were seen only hundreds of years later.

"I call this the Nefertari of Giza," archaeologist Zahi Hawas, director of the Giza plateau, told Reuters on Tuesday, referring to the magnificent decorated tomb Ramses II built in Luxor more than 3,000 years ago for his favourite wife.

"The paintings are beautiful and rare and the colours not found in any other old kingdom tomb in the western burial site at Giza," he added.

Archaeologists took almost three years to restore the limestone offering chapel of the tomb, which was discovered in 1993 buried beneath centuries of sand and rubble.

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Prayer leaders urged to warn against 'Satan worshipping'

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's prayer leaders have been urged to stress the danger of religious "deviations" in a bid to fight alleged "Satan worshipping." Religious Affairs Minister Mahmoud Hamdi Zaqzai said Wednesday.

"The ministry has given instructions to the country's imams to include in their Friday sermons calls on families to protect their children against deviationist and harmful ideas," Mr. Zaqzai said, according to Al-Ahram daily.

"Children should be protected from those who strive to play with the minds of our youth such as 'satan worshippers'," the government daily quoted him as saying.

Echoing recent statements by government officials, Muslim and Christian clerics, Mr. Zaqzai said that "Satan worshipping was foreign to our society which is known for its religious fervour."

Last week the Egyptian authorities dismantled a sect which allegedly urged "scorn for religions and the veneration of Satan," police said in the first such report of its kind in Egypt.

Dozens of youths were rounded up by the authorities who later released 27 after they "repented." Police are still looking for 19 more.

On Monday, Egypt's mufti, Sheikh Nasr Farid Wasseel, urged "Satan worshippers" to repent and said that otherwise, under Islamic law, they could be sentenced to death.

Egyptian editor released on bail

The Egyptian authorities have released on bail a newspaper editor facing one year in prison for defaming the son of Interior Minister Hassan Al-Ali, the newspaper said Wednesday.

"Magdi Hussein was released Tuesday evening on a 1,000-pound (\$333) bail," a spokesman for the weekly Islamic newspaper Al-Shaab said.

Mr. Hussein was arrested at his home Monday after a court sentenced him to one year in prison for publishing a defamatory article last year about Alaa Hassan Al-Ali, the son of the interior minister.

Mr. Hussein, the editor-in-chief of Al-Shaab, was released on bail after his defence lawyers presented the court with documents which it had requested, the newspaper spokesman said.

In May, Egypt's court of appeal gave Mr. Hussein another 12-month sentence, suspended for three years, after a similar complaint by the minister's son. If the court of appeals confirms Sunday's verdict, the previous sentence will also be applied against Mr. Hussein.

KUWAIT (R) — An Islamist group is offering Kuwaitis incentives to voluntarily destroy their satellite dishes and video and audio tapes, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Residents in a tribal area said teenagers had asked them to "tear up" their satellite dishes because they were "sacrilegious," Al-Wakeel newspaper reported.

It said that a group calling itself the Abdullah Ben Al-Arqam Mosque Group was offering residents electrical appliances as "prizes" to those who hand over the largest amount of audio and video tapes and destroy their satellite receivers.

Al-Wakeel said three satellite receivers, 300 video tapes and 1,000 audio tapes were destroyed in a ceremony in front of a mosque in the area while other worshippers promised to return with their satellite equipment.

Some Islamists in the Middle East have voiced concern that programmes on Western satellite television channels violate Muslim values and threaten their culture. Satellite dishes are very popular in Kuwait as in other oil-rich Gulf Arab states.

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Schwarzkopf's logs uninformative on chemical weapons — Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AFP) — General Norman Schwarzkopf's Gulf war logs contain "darned little" about chemical weapons and nothing about the destruction of sarin-filled Iraqi rockets by U.S. troops, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

Pentagon officials reviewed the former Gulf war commander's logs after a U.S. Senator charged that they could shed light on the possible chemical weapons use during the 1991 war.

"The finding was there was darn little in there about chemicals," said Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon. "There were only tangential references in there to chemical."

The tangential references dealt in general terms with the threat of chemical weapons, Mr. Bacon said.

He said the generals' logs made no mention of Khamsiyah, the Iraqi weapons munitions depot where U.S. troops unwittingly destroyed rockets filled with the lethal nerve gas sarin in early March 1991, shortly after the war ended.

The mishap was not uncovered by the Pentagon until May of last year, but since then officials have said as many as 20,000 U.S. troops in the vicinity of the dump may have been exposed to low levels of nerve agent.

The Pentagon, however, has held fast to the position that there was no evidence Iraq used chemical agents during the war.

Suspensions of a Pentagon cover-up have run high among veterans, thousands of whom have reported coming down with unexplained illnesses since serving in the Gulf.

Gen. Schwarzkopf was scheduled to testify Wednesday before a congressional committee looking into Gulf war illnesses.

Britain, another country which contributed soldiers to the Gulf war, is pursuing its own investigations into the so-called Gulf war syndrome.

When he failed to appear on Monday evening his family filed a report to police on his disappearance. It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Matsakis appeared of his own volition or was found by police.

Police believe other activists may be hiding in the range, where British troops have started exercises with live ammunition. The firing range, covered with dense vegetation, covers an expanse of six square kilometres.

The paintings are beautiful and rare and the colours not found in any other old kingdom tomb in the western burial site at Giza," he added.

Archaeologists took almost three years to restore the limestone offering chapel of the tomb, which was discovered in 1993 buried beneath centuries of sand and rubble.

The chapel, embellished with inscriptions and colourful relief depictions of everyday life, helped unfold the story of a man who appears to have worked his way up from lowly origins.

Mr. Hawas said the writings also distinguish the tomb from any other because they list the four types of workers who built it — the sculptors, the draftsmen, the painters and sculptors whom Kai said he paid in beer and bread.

"The inscriptions on the tomb show that he wore many hats during his lifetime. He was a sailor then he became head of a sailing consignment, he was also a judicial notary and had several other titles in addition to being a priest," said archaeologist Sana'a Mohammad who worked on the tomb.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

13:30 Cartoon — Ovide & the Gang and Iris

14:00Moonin

14:30 They Came From Outer Space

15:00 Feature Film: "A Stranger in Time"

16:50Call For Prayer and Ifar

17:30French Programmes

19:30News Headlines

19:33Parade

20:00Documentary

20:30 Babylon 5 (Science Fiction)

21:10Kung Fu: The Legend

22:00News in English

23:00Documentary

23:50 Feature Film: "Angel Flight Down"

23:00Mini Series

01:05Ramadan Talks

PRAYER TIMES

05:07Fajr

06:26(Sunrise) Duha

11:49Dhuhr

14:46Asr

17:11Maghreb

18:30Isha

18:30Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 773111-19

TERRE SANCTA CHURCH

Tel. 623360

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773631

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Under the effect of a depression affecting the Kingdom today, and expected to last until Friday, rainfall is expected today with snow falling in the evening over hilly areas and winds becoming northwesterly active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas rough.

Mini/Max Temperatures

Amman02/08

Aqaba08/16

Aqaba08/16

Deserts00/10

Jordan Valley08/15

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 10, Aqaba 18 Humidity readings: Amman 53 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ramzi Mzawi894788

Dr. Bassam Karadsheli759200

Dr. Khaled Abdo657129

Dr. Khalid Ma'adi861144

Firas pharmacy661912

Ferdows pharmacy778336

Al-Astana pharmacy637055

Al-Salam pharmacy636730

Yaacoub pharmacy644945

Shmeisani pharmacy637660

Afghanistan's Taleban militia moves to finish Dostum by force

Act. Tel. (AFP) — The Taleban militia vowed Wednesday it would soon march on northern Afghanistan to defeat its strong opponent General Abdul Rashid Dostum, dubbing his powerful ethnic Uzbek troops blood-suckers, official sources said Wednesday.

"Soon the forces of the Islamic state will cross the Hindu Kush Ranges to uproot Dostum" in his northern fiefdom, Taleban-controlled Radio Shariat said.

In its harshest verbal attack to date, the broadcast appealed to the people of northern Afghanistan to rise against Gen. Dostum, "a blood-sucking, notorious hiring of Russians."

"Take every opportunity to attack Dostum, because more families are affected

in a devastating war," the station said, denouncing the northern warlord "the enemy of the people."

Gen. Dostum controls six provinces in northern Afghanistan.

Earlier the religious militia's most senior leader in Kabul, Mulla Mohammad Rabbani, had a meeting Tuesday with some pro-Taleban local chieftains from northern Jauzjan. Gen. Dostum's main political and military base, the radio reported.

Mr. Rabbani, chairman of the Taleban's ruling Kabul Council, appreciated their support to the religious militia and assured that "the people of northern provinces will be soon liberated from despotism."

The report was interpreted

by observers as a serious indication that the Taleban appeared to be heading for another assault to cripple Gen. Dostum militarily.

Over the past two weeks the Taleban, in their dramatic victory marches, captured several important towns and key Bagram Air Base to the north of the Afghan capital.

The Pushtun dominated Taleban have vowed to capture northern Afghanistan by force and now have only to cross the snow-covered Hindu Kush Ranges to deal with the Uzbek forces and the militia's other non-Pushtun enemies.

The anti-Taleban alliance which includes the forces of Gen. Dostum and the former Afghan Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood have already blown up sections of the Salang Highway which is the quickest route to the north.

The Taleban seized Kabul on Sept. 27 and hold now more than two-thirds of the war-torn country.

Meanwhile, a senior U.S. official said Tuesday the Islamic Taleban militia in Afghanistan are too conservative and the country should have a government acceptable to all Afghans.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Robin Raphel said Washington maintained strict neutrality over Afghanistan, adding the Taleban were "too conservative."

"It is a tragedy that the country is still suffering 20 years on," she told reporters at the end of her five-day official trip to Bangladesh.

place on the central Skandenberg Square.

In addition, dozens of people were arrested Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the country, particularly in Berat. According to newspaper reports, Prosecutor General Alush Dragoshi has demanded that "all officials who appealed for violence" be charged.

An estimated one in three Albanians have sunk a total of \$1 billion into the shaky investment schemes, which were widespread in Albania until parliament outlawed them last Thursday.

President Sali Berisha pledged Tuesday that all those who lost their life savings in collapsed schemes would be compensated.



A Taleban gunman sits on a truck-mounted 23mm anti-aircraft cannon in front of Ahmad Shah Masood's guest house in Jabul Seraj in this recent picture. The Taleban have also captured Gulbahar on the entrance to Panjsher Valley stronghold of Mr. Masood (AFP photo)

3 opposition leaders charged in Albania

TIRANA (AFP) — Albanian authorities launched a political and legal offensive against the opposition for its role in recent demonstrations Wednesday, bringing charges against its three main leaders and arresting dozens of officials.

The secretary general of the Socialist (ex-Communist) Party, Rexhep Meidani, the leader of the Social Democratic Party, Jushuf Skender, and Arben Imami of the Democratic Alliance were all accused of "responsibility" for a wave of violent demonstrations that have swept across Albania in the past week, the Socialist Party said.

Protestors were venting their anger over the collapse

of a number of bogus financial schemes in which they had invested their savings, clashing with police and setting fire to public buildings.

The government has said repairing the damage will cost about \$50 million. The Socialists have blamed the government for the collapse of the so-called Pyramid schemes and insisted the demonstrations are part of wider anger over government mismanagement of the economy.

They have called on the government to resign and be replaced with a technocrat administration in which the opposition would be represented.

The government has

bluntly rejected any such cooperation.

As well as the three top opposition leaders, four local Socialist Party leaders were detained, the party said, including the secretary general for the towns of Vlore and Berat in the south, Edward Alushi and Sokol Hazizi, and for Peshkopia in the north, Kedri Rapi.

Another official in the southern town of Fieri, Vladimir Shehu, was detained but freed on health grounds.

A number of Socialist Party leaders in Tirana, Bandeli Majko, Ndre Legisi and Musa Uguini were also charged over incidents in the capital Sunday, when violent demonstrations took

place on the central Skandenberg Square.

In addition, dozens of people were arrested Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the country, particularly in Berat. According to newspaper reports, Prosecutor General Alush Dragoshi has demanded that "all officials who appealed for violence" be charged.

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Hundreds of women, children killed by Burundi army — U.N.

GENEVA (AFP) — The army in Burundi has massacred hundreds of women and children in the last two months as the country plunged deeper into civil war, according to a United Nations report published here Wednesday.

At least 1,100 people were killed by the military or by Hutu rebels between Dec. 1 and Jan. 22, according to the report by the U.N. Human Rights Mission in Burundi.

Out of 50 reported incidents, more than 28 were the work of elements within the Tutsi-dominated army. These incidents claimed several hundred victims, the majority of them women and children, the report said.

Burundi has been torn for three years by a civil war pitting Hutu rebels against the Tutsi-led army. More than 150,000 people have died.

Human rights observers said civilians had been the main victims of the increase in violence and military operations in the past two months.

U.N. observers said a significant development, apart from the massacres attributed to the army, was the use of mines by rebels.

Entire Hutu populations have been forced into camps by the army, allegedly for their protection, the report said.

In the northeastern Karuzi province alone, some 100,000 people are crammed into 24 camps, while U.N. observers believe at least 200,000 people have been evicted from their homes and sent to camps across the country.

On Dec. 2 and 3 some 700 people were killed in the northwest Kayanza province in the worst army-led massacre in the past two months. Less than three weeks later army troops killed a further 121 people near the capital Bujumbura, the report said.

It added that at least 150 people were killed in January in Bubanza, Muyinga and Cibitoke.

Observers reported that another 58 people were killed by the rebels in 18 separate incidents.

The crisis in Burundi has been fuelled by an economic embargo imposed on the small central African nation by its neighbours after Burundi strongman Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi, toppled former Hutu President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya in a coup on July 25.

As a result of these sanctions, the price of fuel, food and medicine has shot up, the report said.

Algerian press ponders who killed unionist leader

PARIS (R) — Algerian trade union boss Abdulhak Benhamouda, gunned down in central Algiers, gasped out as he died: "Kamel, my brother, they have betrayed us," an Algerian newspaper said Wednesday.

His words, the ambush in May 1st Square Tuesday and the escape in the heavily policed city of the gunmen — said by the government to be Muslim fundamentalists — raised widespread questions Wednesday over the killing and its motives.

Algeria's independent newspapers asked: "Who killed Benhamouda?" one of Algerian President Liamine Zeroual's main political backers and a powerful figure who was preparing to step down from his union and start his own political party.

Al Khabar quoted Benhamouda's last words as he fell into the arms of a brother unionist in the million-strong Union Generale Des Travailleurs Algériens (UGTA) he headed.

It added: "No fewer than 14 bullets had been emptied into him," and said his death was "classified among all the political assassinations through which the country has lived."

Al Khabar cited among them the killing in Annaba town of President Mohamed Boudiaf in June 1992, for which Lembarék Boumarrafi, a member of his own security force was convicted, sentenced to death, but remains in prison.

As ripples from the killing spread in the North African country and abroad, analysts in France who closely follow events in its former colony, said Benhamouda appeared to have been killed by a rival faction within the ruling hierarchy.

One pointed out that Mr. Zeroual described him as having been shot by "traitors" rather than "terrorists," which is Algeria's usual official term for fundamentalists.

The Algerian newspaper Al Watan commented: "...From the announcement of the creation of his party, Mr. Benhamouda has appeared...as a key man in the political debate. And at the centre of intense political controversy."

Who assassinated Mr. Benhamouda. Who profited from this crime. A question all the world is asking. Is it the FIDA (Front Islamique du Jihad en Algérie)...or is it a political paying of scores?"

Several Algerian newspapers, including the government-run Al Moudjahid, said Mr. Benhamouda died with his gun in his hand.

L'Authentique said: "He fired back before succumbing."

Another independent paper Liberte asked whether Mr. Benhamouda had died because he was "the new political man who was preparing to upset the national chessboard...Who killed him, or rather, who ordered his elimination."

Even the official newspaper

per Al Moudjahid said: "It is not easy to understand this killing and the reasons which truly motivated it."

The UGTA leader had escaped one earlier assassination bid and his brother was killed in another, blamed Muslim rebels.

Benhamouda, a vociferous anti-Islamist, was the best known figure to die in over two weeks of intensified bloodshed which has marked the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Mr. Zeroual, who only four days earlier had vowed to eradicate "terrorism" from Algeria, mourned Benhamouda's death as a loss for the country and its workers.

Only hours after his death, in the continuing violence a booby-trapped parcel exploded in the garrison town of Blida, 50 kilometres south of the capital Algiers, killing one person and wounding 17, the Algerian security forces said.

Just hours before Benhamouda was shot, an Italian Foreign Ministry official said Rome would propose a peace initiative at a meeting next week with France and Spain.

At least 176 people have been killed since Jan. 10, with some Algerian newspapers putting the figure at up to 250.

About 60,000 people have died in the five-year-old conflict, which erupted in 1992 after the authorities cancelled a general election dominated by Islamists. New elections are promised before July this year.

Burma tells Albright to leave country alone

RANGOON (R) — Burma on Wednesday advised new U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to learn from the experience of former American Defence Secretary Robert McNamara and not interfere in the country's affairs.

Commentaries in two state-owned newspapers said Mr. McNamara, who was Pentagon chief during the Vietnam War, had written in a book that he was aggrieved by his country's

unnecessary intervention in the domestic affairs of Vietnam.

"I would like to present a good advice to Madeleine K. Albright to read in Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam by former Secretary of Defence McNamara," said the writer of the commentary.

"Mr. McNamara's confession has spotlighted the temperamental and stand of the southeast Asian people. It is the truth that is worth

many lives," the commentary added.

Ms. Albright led recent United Nations criticism of the ruling military State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) which resulted in a resolution by the world assembly rebuking the country for suppressing opposition.

She condemned the SLORC's repression of anti-government student unrest in Rangoon last month and the treatment of opposition

leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The newspaper commentaries said the Burmese people would not support Ms. Suu Kyi.

"It is time to realise that Myanmar (Burmese) people never support Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Followers of imperialists are never accepted by the fatherland. They fall without fail in one way or another," the commentaries added.

Clinton expects to meet with Yeltsin in March

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton said Tuesday he expects to meet in March with Russian President Boris Yeltsin as planned, although officials said the summit might be in a third country due to the Kremlin leader's health.

A senior administration official said there was a "strong possibility" the meeting now set for the United States would be held elsewhere to ease the travel strain on Mr. Yeltsin.

"We have a huge, full agenda," Mr. Clinton said of his scheduled summit with Mr. Yeltsin. "And we have been given no impression by the Russians that we aren't still going to have the Yeltsin-Clinton meeting in the March timeframe."

Mr. Yeltsin, looking alert and smiling, appeared on Russian television Tuesday for the first time in three weeks in a bid to calm concerns about his long-term health and his ability to govern.

He was shown talking with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who will be in Washington next week for talks with Vice President Al Gore that include finalising details of the summit.

The administration official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said a "meeting in a third country is a strong possibility... although the United States has not been ruled out."

Mr. Clinton, during a White House news conference, stressed that the meeting was "very important," noting the various economic and security issues on the agenda.

He cited several issues that need to be dealt with — including the expansion of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), which Moscow sees as a security threat, and Washington's desire for Mr. Yeltsin to press for ratification of the START II treaty on reducing both nation's nuclear arsenals.

"So I think we'll go right on, and I expect to have that meeting in March," Mr. Clinton said. "And I expect it to be an important one and, I hope, a successful one."

Mr. Clinton's comments washed away earlier comments by administration officials who suggested that the summit might have to be delayed because of Mr. Yeltsin's health problems.

The 65-year-old Yeltsin had quintuple bypass surgery

Nov. 5 and fell ill earlier this month to double pneumonia — touching off debate in parliament over whether he should resign.

In his news conference, Mr. Clinton stressed that he had "no private information that is inconsistent with the public statements of the Russian government on President Yeltsin's health."

"I have no reason to believe, based on any information I have, that his condition is any different from what the Russian government has said it is," Mr. Clinton said.

Also Tuesday, President Clinton said "mistakes were made in raising money for his reelection campaign, but insisted contributors did not buy influence with him and the system is not corrupt."

At a wide-ranging news conference in the White House east room that spanned issues ranging from Boris Yeltsin's health to domestic budget concerns, Mr. Clinton said an overhaul of U.S. campaign financing laws was long overdue and promised to do all he can to fix the system.

"Nobody is blameless here. It costs so much money to pay for these campaigns that mistakes were made by people who either did it deliberately or inadvertently," said Mr. Clinton, who has been under fire since last year's presidential campaign for condoning fund-raising tactics that some critics contend verged on being corrupt.

"It's up to others to decide whether those mistakes were made deliberately or inadvertently," the Democratic president said, alluding to congressional and Justice Department probes. "It's up to me to do what I can to clean up the system."

Mr. Clinton, who is backing a pending campaign reform measure sponsored by Senators John McCain, an Arizona Republican, and Russell Feingold, a Wisconsin Democrat, admitted it was inappropriate to have a top federal banking regulator attend a May 1996 White House meeting over coffee with more than a dozen leading bankers and Democratic Party fund-raisers.

Some of the bankers pumped more than \$300,000 into Clinton campaign coffers after the meeting, and the regulator — comptroller of the currency Eugene Ludwig — has said he would not have gone if he had known the nature of the event.

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S. Africa's Zulu party in turmoil after leaders quit

DURBAN (R) — South African Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi is casting his Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) into turmoil by driving off senior members with his hardline, autocratic leadership, political analysts say.

Mr. Buthelezi is hoping to revive his party, ready for a tough fight in the 1999 elections with the African National Congress (ANC) of his arch-rival, President Nelson Mandela.

But on the way his high-handed methods are alienating senior Inkatha members, newspapers quoted party insiders as saying.

Three leaders announced at the weekend they were quitting, including the party's top two officials after Mr. Buthelezi — Secretary-General Ziba Jiyane and Chairman Frank Mdlalose, who is also stepping down as premier of Kwazulu-Natal province, the heartland of support for the Zulu-based party.

The official reasons given for their decisions were ill-health and personal matters.

Further resignations are being predicted in early February.

"There is widespread dissent in Inkatha and it is in a genuine state of crisis. It is doing badly organisationally and is in total disarray," said Alexander Johnston of the University of Natal's Politics Department.

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Cuba not for sale, Castro tells U.S.

HAVANA (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro Tuesday angrily dismissed a U.S. plan to provide Cuba with billions of dollars in help if it dumps its Communist system and Mr. Castro himself, telling Washington that Cuba is not for sale.

"What most angers us is that they are trying to buy us," Mr. Castro said. "There is not strength or money in the world capable of turning us into slaves again."

He told an annual rally in Havana to mark the 154th anniversary of the birth of Cuba's independence hero Jose Marti.

"It is unworthy to think that liberty and dignity can be bought, unworthy that someone thinks that we will be capable of being slaves again," added Mr. Castro, in power since the 1959 revolution that toppled former dictator Fulgencio Batista.

"As if this people were capable of betraying the blood spilt since 1898 until now," he added, referring to the start of Cuba's independence war against Spain.

Mr. Castro, 70, was responding to a document released by the White House Tuesday that dangled before Cuba the prospect of billions of dollars in loans and investment. It said the money could be Havana's if it embraced democracy and dumped Mr. Castro.

Mr. Castro's reaction was predictable. Virtually since taking power, he has been resisting pressure from the United States for change. And after Washington toughened its 35-year embargo with the Helms-Burton Law last year, Havana vowed it would not bend to new threats.

The White House document, with a preface written by President Bill Clinton, presented a "carrot" aspect of Helms-Burton, outlining how the United States and others would help Cuba if the country joined the ranks of prosperous democratic nations.

"It is reasonable to project that during a six-year period following the establishment of a transition government, Cuba would receive from \$4 billion to \$8 billion from the international financial institutions, multilateral organisations and individual countries," the report said.

Cuba also could expect to attract more than \$1 billion annually from its export-credits in the United States — once Washington lifts limits on money transfers — as well as hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign direct investment.

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Civilians hurt in suspected IRA attack

BELFAST (R) — Several civilians were slightly hurt Tuesday when suspected Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas fired two grenades at a British army armoured vehicle in the heart of Catholic nationalist West Belfast.

One missile hit the vehicle and the other struck a wall in a complex used as a community centre and an industrial training base for young people, security sources said.

"A number of local people

suffered minor cuts and shock," a police source told Reuters. He said one person may also have suffered a heart attack.

There were no reports of any army casualties.

The attack coincides with heightened tensions in the British province following a surge in IRA hostilities and revenge attacks by their pro-British loyalist foes.

The IRA abandoned its 17-month ceasefire in a war against British rule last

February, citing frustration at being kept out of British peace talks.

The attack was launched from an alley under cover of early evening darkness in a heavily built-up area where British security forces have been frequently targeted in the past.

Security sources said it appeared to be the latest in an intensified campaign by IRA guerrillas who are fighting to end British rule and achieve an all-Ireland state.



Strikes march

Agents of workers stand in front of a building in March. The caption indicates this is related to strikes in March.

French opposition

The French opposition is... The caption indicates this is related to strikes in March.

Milosevic seen

Belgrade (R) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic is seen... The caption indicates this is related to strikes in March.



A group of workers stand next to a stationary train at Sofia's main railway station during a one-hour strike Wednesday. Workers around Bulgaria kept up pressure on the ruling Socialists Wednesday with one-hour strikes and rallies to protest at the economic crisis and back opposition demands for early elections (Reuter photo)

Strikes mark 24th day of Bulgarian protests

SOFIA (R) — Workers around Bulgaria kept up pressure on the ex-Communist ruling Socialists Wednesday with strikes and rallies to protest at the country's economic crisis and back opposition demands for early elections.

As anti-government protests reached their 24th consecutive day, national radio said miners blocked the main road between Sofia and the northern border town of Rousse with burning tyres and vehicles and held protest rallies at several mines.

Union officials said protesters also blocked the road to the Danube ferry at Vidin. One-hour strikes halted trains and affected schools and factories, but public transport ran normally in

Sofia and the airport was open. Depositors queued outside banks to withdraw their savings and buy dollars before hyper-inflation erodes their value completely.

Wages have been increased in some key sectors to ward off strikes and compensate for inflation, forecast at 50 per cent for January alone.

"We were told that our wages were doubled but the increase won't come through for a month and by then who knows what the lev-dollar rate will be," said ticket seller Lilia Nikolova at Sofia's main station, where trains sounded their horns at 10 a.m. (0900 GMT) to mark the start of their strike.

Church bells tolled in the

town of Doupnitsa, where a shoe factory stopped work for an hour.

The nine deputies of the Bulgarian Business Bloc walked out of parliament, condemning both the ruling party and the opposition for failing to tackle the crisis.

After failing to find a compromise between the warring political factions, President Petar Stoyanov Tuesday asked Nikolai Dobrev, the interior minister of the Socialist Party, to form a new government.

The opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) said it would suspend its boycott of the 240-seat parliament to try to stop Mr. Dobrev from winning approval for a government. Although the Socialists have an absolute majority, the

UDF hopes defections could stop Mr. Dobrev.

Under the constitution, Mr. Stoyanov had to give the mandate to the Socialists — parliament's biggest party and the caretaker government since Socialist Prime Minister Zhan Videnov resigned on Dec. 21.

The opposition wants an immediate general election, while the Socialists are proposing polls in the autumn, more than a year before their mandate expires in December 1998.

Sofia students plan a torchlight rally Wednesday evening and a contest to choose Miss Protest and Mr. Vagabond — critics of their daily rallies have dubbed them "mere vagabonds."

French opposition forces emergency defence debate

PARIS (R) — The French government agreed under left-wing opposition pressure Tuesday to an emergency debate on a Franco-German joint defence concept after protests that a document had been leaked to everyone except parliament.

Last Friday the French daily Le Monde published extracts from the German version of the Joint Strategic Concept, approved at a Franco-German summit in Nuremberg, Germany, on Dec. 9.

The document, obtained by Reuters Tuesday, said French and German security interests had become inseparable, called for a dialogue on nuclear deterrence in a European defence policy and for consultation on intervention in international crises.

"Our security interests are more and more inseparable," the joint Franco-Ger-

man security and defence concept said.

The leak embarrassed the government, since President Jacques Chirac had promised that members of parliament would receive the document and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and European Union partners would be briefed on it before it was made public.

There were angry scenes in the National Assembly when Defence Minister Charles Millon acknowledged the document had been sent only to the speaker and the heads of the defence and foreign affairs committees.

Left-wing former Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement accused the government of selling out to Germany and NATO in a secret deal struck behind parliament's back.

Socialist floor leader Laurent Fabius, a former prime

minister, said it was disgraceful that the government should expect parliament to debate the future of national service after the abolition of conscription while withholding the document.

National Assembly President Philippe Seguin said Prime Minister Alain Juppe had promised the text would be sent to deputies Tuesday and the government would make a statement to parliament Wednesday, followed by a debate.

But that failed to calm the opposition, which refused to debate the National Service Bill until it had had time to study the Franco-German document.

The debate began more than two hours late and was adjourned after an opening statement from Mr. Millon and a report from the Parliamentary Defence Committee.

The Foreign Ministry said

it expected to officially release the document to the media on Jan. 30 after pre-selling it to EU partners Tuesday and to NATO allies on Jan. 29.

The document stressed France and Germany would conduct a "concerted defence policy." The two countries committed themselves to "consultation about the degree of intervention aimed at preventing or settling a crisis."

The text stressed that the first duty of French and German forces was to NATO and European allies.

"Our entire conventional forces, including Rapid Reaction Forces, are primarily at the service of the defence of our allies in the framework of obligations resulting from the Brussels and Washington treaties," it said, referring to the founding agreements of the Western European Union and NATO.

Milosevic sees dialogue to end crisis — envoy

BELGRADE (R) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic sees dialogue as a way to end a crisis over election fraud and agrees the use of force is no solution, a Russian envoy said Wednesday.

Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, who met Mr. Milosevic Tuesday, said they agreed the 10-week impasse over opposition demands for the reinstatement of annulled electoral victories was an internal affair of Serbia, which has close links to Russia.

Mr. Ivanov, who also talked to leaders of the opposition Zajedno (Together) Coalition, said it was not his role to mediate but to pass on Russia's "worries regarding the present situation."

"Milosevic assured us that proposals on ways out of the crisis will be formulated soon and will express the political will for dialogue with all political forces in the country, as that is in the best interests for the future of Yugoslavia," Mr. Ivanov told a news conference at the Russian embassy.

He said Mr. Milosevic, who has made virtually

no public statements on the election crisis, had told him there were other recommendations within a report by Europe's main security body, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Its main conclusion was that the Zajedno victories should be reinstated immediately. "There is a recommendation that a way out is possible through open and sincere dialogue with all political forces in the country and it says only Serbs can find the solution for it, with the help of the OSCE if it is asked for," Mr. Ivanov said.

Zajedno leaders have rejected dialogue or any negotiations with the government over their electoral victories in 14 cities, which were declared valid by an OSCE mission headed by former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

The government annulled the outcome over alleged "irregularities," sparking a protest movement that has swept Serbia and posed the most serious challenge to the authoritari-

an Milosevic in his 10 years in power.

Temper frayed in recent weeks with police forced to stand guard over demonstrations night after night, clubbing some demonstrators, but Mr. Ivanov said Mr. Milosevic and Zajedno agreed force would not resolve the impasse.

"Both the authorities and opposition realise there is no solution with the use of force and in that respect they express great restraint and do not go for provocations," Mr. Ivanov said.

He said there was a realisation that a "prolonging of the crisis is to the detriment of both sides because it hurts the interests of Yugoslavia." He said both sides also opposed the reintroduction of economic sanctions which were slapped on Yugoslavia during the Bosnian war and would be "harmful to the already ailing economy."

"All of this gives room for hope that in the near future healthy reason will prevail and that dialogue will be established to find a way out of the crisis," he said.

Mr. Ivanov praised the role of Serbian students, who have held demonstrations in support of Zajedno but say their aim is to support democracy rather than any political party.

"They are serious young people who love their country without any extreme stands. They came out with concrete and clear demands to live in an independent, democratic and prosperous state," Mr. Ivanov said.

He also criticised European powers for trying to influence Serbian affairs while denying it membership of pan-European bodies such as the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

He said Serbia, through membership of such organisations, would be obliged to observe certain principles. "But if they do not allow the country to become a member and demand it respect all the principles, then it is another issue."

Maskhadov is on track to become Chechen president

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Aslan Maskhadov, the guerrilla leader who wants Russia and the world to recognise Chechen independence, looked poised Wednesday for a convincing win in his country's presidential election.

His spokesman Mayerbek Vachagayev told reporters that preliminary results from 53 of the mountainous region's 63 electoral districts gave Maskhadov nearly 65 per cent of the vote, well ahead of his nearest rival Shamil Basayev.

Mr. Vachagayev said Commander Basayev, a hardline rebel regarded in Moscow as a terrorist, had won 24 per cent of the vote and acting President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev had won 10 per cent.

A Central Election Commission official declined to comment on the results as the count was still underway.

In Moscow Kremlin press spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky told ITAR-TASS news agency Moscow had no grounds to question the legitimacy of Monday's election but he reiterated Russian opposition to Chechen independence.

Mr. Maskhadov, a former Soviet artillery colonel, has already claimed victory and has made clear that he will not row back from his calls for international recognition of Chechnya.

"We determined in 1991 that Chechnya was an independent state," said the gently spoken Maskhadov Tuesday.

"All that remains is for other countries, including Russia, to recognise that. This can be achieved by political means," he said, calling on Moscow to ignore a five-year moratorium agreed in last year's peace deal and start negotiating sovereignty now.

In comments carried by Interfax News Agency Wednesday he took an even harder line.

"Many consider that I am a man of compromise, that I am ready for any negotiations with Russia... But this is not so," Interfax quoted him as saying. "The West will not open its doors to us straight away but we will win in this affair with the same courage that won us the war."

On Tuesday President Boris Yeltsin welcomed the initial poll returns, saying they gave a good chance for further peace talks.

Mr. Maskhadov is regarded in Moscow as a moderate pragmatist, despite his secessionist rhetoric.

Mr. Yeltsin sent troops into the southern region in December 1994 to crush its secessionist bid. Tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, died during 21 months of fighting that ended with a peace deal last August.

Wednesday Russia's former security chief Alexander Lebed, who signed the peace accord for Moscow, told Ekho Moskvy radio Mr. Maskhadov would conduct a "sensible, balanced policy," adding: "I have never had grounds to doubt Mas-

khadov's worthiness." Russia also believes it still holds many strong cards, and may in many ways be in a better bargaining position now it has pulled its troops out of the unwinnable war on Chechnya's soil.

As Mr. Maskhadov himself admitted Tuesday: "Our economic situation is woe-ful... Nearly everything has been destroyed."

The silver-haired commander demanded reparations from Russia and said he planned to negotiate a share of revenues from lucrative Russian oil pipelines that cross Chechen territory.

Moscow has promised cash for reconstruction. Analysts say one of its main negotiators, businessman and deputy Security Council Secretary Boris Berezovsky, has played the "oil card" heavily, offering a share of profits to persuade the Chechens to stay inside Russia.

Chechnya, surrounded on three sides by the Russian Federation and with its back to the soaring Caucasus Mountains, may find it hard to win real support, even in the Muslim world, in view of Moscow's threat to retaliate by severing ties with any country that acknowledges Chechen sovereignty.

In Strasbourg, France, a Council of Europe parliamentary observer team Wednesday strongly praised the presidential elections in Chechnya, one calling the poll "democracy against a backdrop of ruins."

"We were stunned by the order and discipline demon-

strated by this people who had been given the right to vote," Ernst Muehleman, a Swiss member of the council's parliamentary assembly, told a news conference.

"What we saw was democracy against a backdrop of ruins," said Poland's Tadeusz Iwinski, vice-president of the parliamentary mission.

Mr. Muehleman said everything was now ready for the launch of third phase of a ceasefire agreement between Russia and the breakaway region — a political dialogue on its constitutional status.

"We are waiting for Aslan Maskhadov's first declaration to confirm this," Mr. Muehleman said.

Meanwhile, Commander Basayev told AFP Wednesday that he would not work alongside the new Chechen president, but neither would he oppose him.

"There won't be any confrontation between the candidates. We fought alongside each other against Russian aggression and we have a common goal — Chechnya's independence," Commander Basayev said.

"I still don't know what I'll do, but I don't like Maskhadov's aides and I cannot work with such people," he added after Mr. Maskhadov had offered to work with the young field commander.

"If I accept this offer there will be constant disputes, and nobody needs that now. I don't want to prevent Maskhadov implementing his programme."

S. Koreans start anti-nuclear hunger strike in Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — Six South Korean anti-nuclear activists began a planned five-day hunger strike in Taipei Wednesday to pressure Taiwan to cancel a controversial deal to ship nuclear waste to Taiwan's North Korea.

The activists from Green Korea, an independent environment group in South Korea, and local anti-nuclear groups had minor clashes with Taiwan Power Co-workers when the protesters tried to take their complaints into the state utility's headquarters.

No one was injured. "Rad waste — don't export. Don't make," read a banner held by the South Korean activists.

Under a Jan. 11 contract, Taipower can ship up to 200,000 barrels of nuclear waste to impoverished and food-strapped North Korea. Unconfirmed media reports have said Taipower will pay North Korea \$1.150 per barrel.

The Taiwan government is trying to solve its mounting waste problem by profiting from the serious famine in North Korea. Green Korea leader Jang Won said in a prepared statement.

"For people seeking environmental justice, such exports are an immoral form of environmental terrorism that endanger not only the population of North Korea, but that of the entire northeast Asian region," Mr. Jang said.

Mr. Jang shaved his head in protest and said his group was starting a five-day hunger strike.

Taipower workers, saying South Korea had no right to interfere in what they called a legitimate business deal between Taipei and Pyongyang, blocked Taipower's entrance and shouted: "Go back" and "Koreans get out."

"If they want to protest, they should have protested in their own country. They should not have come to Taipower," Yao Chiang-Lin, Taipower's union chairman, told reporters.

Ugandan troops reportedly push into Zaire to back rebels

KINSHASA (AFP) — Zairean rebels in the east of the country are receiving support from several thousand Ugandan troops as well as from mercenaries from other African countries, the Zairean army said Wednesday.

In a statement, the army's headquarters said that several thousand Ugandan troops had pushed into eastern Zaire to back up the Tutsi rebels, while others were deployed at the border.

It added that the rebels, who drove Zairean government forces out of two eastern provinces last year, were also receiving backing from mercenaries from Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia.

According to the statement, "two to three thousand men" were stationed on the Walikale-Kisangani axis in Haut-Zaire, while an equal number of Ugandan troops were deployed in Zaire some 300 kilometres further north, near the border with Uganda.

Furthermore, some 2,000 Ugandan troops massed on the border were heading for

the Zairean town of Isiro, some 250 kilometres west of the Ugandan border, the statement said.

It added that an Ugandan brigade equipped with Soviet SA-14 missiles was stationed in Beni, near the Zairean-Ugandan border, and that Ugandan soldiers were "preparing to cross (the border-lake) Mobutu."

Haut Zaire is some 300 kilometres north of Goma, the capital of North Kivu. The Tutsi rebels, headed by Laurent-Desire Kabila, control most of North and South Kivu. The statement noted the presence of some 2,000 Ugandan troops in South Kivu.

Kinshasa has repeatedly accused its eastern neighbours Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda of aiding the rebels in the east of the country. All three have denied the charges, although Rwanda has acknowledged cross-border artillery exchanges with Zairean troops and a brief incursion.

Although the statement did not make mention of any Rwandan troops, it

stressed that "the Zairean Armed Forces are fighting against several armies: Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and mercenaries from Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia."

Army officials denounced what they considered as a "vast international plot" in which "African countries and their Western allies are fully implicated."

In a separate development, Belgium denounced Tuesday the alleged presence of thousands of Rwandan troops in Zaire and reiterated its support for the territorial integrity of its former colony.

Uganda Wednesday denied it had sent several thousand troops into eastern Zaire terming latest Zairean allegations false.

"It is absolute falsehood. It is in fact laughable that we would be so stupid as to openly send troops into Zaire. Even the geographical locations mentioned do not make sense," Hope Ki-vengere, spokeswoman for President Yoweri Museveni, told Reuters by telephone from Kampala.

Fire kills 3 in Bombay office block

BOMBAY (R) — Three people died and nearly 30 were rescued from a fire on the upper floors of a 25-storey building in India's financial capital Bombay Wednesday, officials said.

The blaze began at Express Towers, in the prestigious Nariman Point business district, which houses the Indian Express newspaper on the ground and first

floor, and a number of domestic and multi-national companies and banks.

"Three people died in a room on the twenty-second floor that had been locked on the inside," city official Shridhar Joshi told Reuters.

Mr. Joshi said the three men were employees of Pfizer Ltd, a U.S.-based pharmaceutical company. One body of an Indian employee

of Pfizer had been identified, he added. The other two bodies have yet to be identified.

A fire control room official said firefighters had put out the flames on the twenty-first floor, where the blaze apparently started, and had nearly extinguished the fire on the higher levels.

Other Pfizer employees told Reuters how they fled the blaze.

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The year-round Santa

By Jean Claude Elias

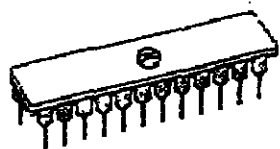
PEOPLE WHO have a real passion for anything like a hobby, a collection, and object or an art tend to develop strange habits. Their passion grows stronger with time. They become very demanding, picky and nothing can satisfy them anymore. One typical aspect of their crisis is the impossible search for perfection. Whether a violinist dreaming of the ideal bridge for his violin or a stamp collector scrutinising a century-old rare piece under a microscope — an activity that simple mortals surely cannot understand — such specialists will take to incredible heights the excitement for a detail that will make all the difference. Only those who share similar ardor will understand and sympathise.

Computer lovers belong to such a group. The industry however is helping them to nurture their passion beyond acceptable, reasonable limits. Because of the rapid advancement in computer technology and the way it is being promoted, PC aficionados may be the weirdest hobbyists of them all. The huge array of software and hardware products that the market is offering them is being updated, improved and replaced every few weeks. And they badly want to follow the trend. At any price.

What is amazing is that a PC addict is ready to spend money and change a piece in his setup, even for an insignificant technical improvement. An example: The access time of a memory chip, the speed at which it can retrieve data stored in it, is expressed in "ns" (nanosecond, or billionth of a second). Current PC memory works at the average rate of 70 ns. New circuits have been released that work at 60 ns. One should see how anxious were some users to obtain the new model. The same phenomenon is now happening for computer screens. When a new design was launched that featured a sharper resolution point, measuring exactly 0.27 mm instead of the standard 0.28 mm, many were those who wanted desperately to get rid of their "old" monitor to acquire the new one. It is like dying to trade your car that can do 160 km/h for one that can do 161 km/h.

The tiniest improvement in technical characteristics is seen as an absolute "must have." A printer that can produce

chip talk



six pages per minute instead of five, a CD-ROM that rotates at twelve-spind instead of ten, multimedia speakers that deliver ten watts instead of nine or a new mouse with a slightly more comfortable thumb position, any of these products that may sound like vain gimmicks to those who are "out," will make an honest PC lover lose sleep over them.

Actually this species — PC lovers that is — is far from being ridiculous or insane. Its conduct is dictated not by technical necessity but by a simple, irresistible law: Pleasure. They know it well and don't feel ashamed a bit about it. Like children dreaming of some toy on Christmas Eve, computer users dream of faster hard disks, larger monitors and more feature-laden programmes. The only difference is that kids expect Santa once a year. PC users expect it every month or so. Who cares if nobody really feels the benefit, it just feels good to have it.

Nothing can better illustrate our consumer society than Personal Computers. They beat video tape recorders, cars, stereo systems and satellite TV receivers. Simply because the rate at which it is being updated is the fastest among all industries, even if it's by microscopic, negligible steps, computer technology is now the major force that drives consumers to buy. Nothing allows you to combine pleasure and real productive work better than PCs. This is at least how the whole story about the machines is being presented to us by the industry. This is also the best excuse one can find to buy a computer and keep upgrading it, upgrading it, upgrading it...

Heroes and zeros

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

THE BRITISH have beaten us again at a game that has been going on for as long as anyone can remember. One reason why they keep winning is that they are institutionally far better prepared than we are.

Take for example the plans to build a tower in the centre of London. One such institution, English Heritage, has decided to oppose world renowned architect Norman Foster's plans to build a 1,265ft Millennium Tower in the business district of London because, it claimed, it would overwhelm London.

The commissioners of English Heritage have considered that the tower, which would be the tallest building in Europe, would damage not only the heart of the business district but London as a whole.

English Heritage also plans to oppose plans by leading Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava to build another tower because it too is considered to be damaging to the London Skyline.

The commission's chairman said that the Foster Tower is "a fine building but one in the wrong place, and that London does not need a new symbol to prove it is a world financial centre."

The next step will involve calling a public enquiry on the tower and, if necessary, banning the issue of planning permission.

These are the logical and democratic procedures that ultimately control who builds what and where. Maybe, just maybe, some day we will be able to reach this institutional stage of development where the role of real and effective institutions, rather than the role of the individual, in the decision making process is made paramount.

The game continues.

Teachers in the United Kingdom, it was announced last week, are to be given clear powers to use physical force to restrain pupils in playground fights and classroom disruption to protect the safety and education of others.

These latest instructions, themselves planned amendments to the Education Bill, follow complaints by teachers that they were risking their careers whenever they intervened in such fights.

The measures also include legally-enforceable detentions and longer exclusions.

Meanwhile, over here, our institutional framework for discipline at schools is a 1964 Education Act that many people agree contains gaps and anomalies that urgently need addressing.

This malfunction was clearly demonstrated by the High Court of Justice's annulment of a Ministry of Education decision to expel a student from one prestigious private school.

So while we wait for our dear lawmakers to act and maybe amend our outdated laws, they themselves are busy pronouncing untimely new ones thus allowing the British



to move ahead even further in the game.

A third contentious issue concerns levels of knowledge in both countries.

In Jordan, a recent television programme where the presenter ventures outdoors in our capital to ask citizens general knowledge questions has revealed several amazing facts about our people. Some people, it turns out, believe that the Emirate of Transjordan was founded in 1972 by Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali while others said that it was founded in 1967. Others still said it was founded in 1968.

Striking a similar note, a recent survey published last week in the United Kingdom claimed that fewer than half of all school-children could place London on a map of Britain and more than a third did not know where Scotland was.

Education advisors have admitted the evidence from 900 pupils aged between 8 and 16 was surprising and disturbing because the national curriculum in Britain stipulated that children should be able to identify principal cities, regions and rivers on a map of the U.K. by the age of 11.

No points to either country.

Another recent situation between the two countries involves visa fees charged to citizens from both countries.

While we certainly should oppose one who try to tell us, and even mightily dictate, how we would welcome tourists, it should remain clear that when it comes to the arrangement of reciprocal treatment vis-a-vis visa charges, positions should remain fixed and uncompromising unless the action taken was mutual.

This means that if the British embassy in Amman charges Jordanian nationals JD37 for a single entry visa, then it is quite justifiable for the Jordanian Embassy in London to charge JD30 for a single entry visa.

Because of this, we believe that officials from the Ministry of Tourism were quite wrong to have pushed for a reduction in visa fees for British passport holders effective from Jan.20, 1997.

In this matter, we think Jordan was wrong-footed by a group of people who should have known better. Maybe.

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, January 30, 1997

1:00	Holy Koran
1:05	Min Al Hadi Al Mohammadi
1:30	Cartoon (Ovide & The Gang)
2:00	Moomin
2:30	They Came From Outer Space
3:00	Feature Film — A Stranger In Time Starring: Heather Kottek & Amy Seely
4:50	Call For Prayer and Link With Channel One
5:30	French Programmes Intertainment Varieties
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Atomes Crochus
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Parenthood
8:00	Documentary
8:30	Babylon-5
9:10	Kung Fu-The Legend Continues
10:00	News In English
10:25	Documentary
11:00	Feature Film — Angel Flight Down Starring: Patricia Kalember & David Charret
11:50	Mini Series
1:05	Ramadan Talks

Friday, January 31, 1997

1:00	Holy Koran
1:05	Min Al Hadi Al Mohammadi
1:30	Flintstones
2:00	Playabout & See How They Grow
2:30	Crystal Maze
3:00	Feature Film — Memphis Belle Starring: Mathew Modine & Eric Stoltz
4:50	Call For Prayer And Link With Channel One
5:30	French Programme Science & Space Encyclopedia
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Allo La Terre
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Down To Earth
8:02	Oriental Rugs (Doc.)
8:30	Babylon 5
9:10	Hunter
10:00	News In English
10:25	Journey Across The Land Of Islam
11:00	Feature Film — The Rose & The Jackal Starring: Christopher Reeve & Madolyn Smith Osborne
11:50	Mini Series — Blue Grass
1:05	Ramadan Talks

Saturday, February 1, 1997

1:00	Holy Koran
1:05	Min Al Hadi Al Mohammadi
1:35	Cartoon
2:30	Chris Cross
3:00	Feature Film — Benji The Hunted Starring: Red Hegal & Nancy Francis
4:50	Call For Prayer And Link With Channel One
5:05	Documentary
5:30	The Muppet Show
6:00	French Programme Serie — Jack
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Ziva
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Hanging With Mr. Cooper
8:02	Oriental Rugs (Doc.)
8:30	Prism
9:10	Lois & Clark — The New Adventures Of Superman
10:00	News In English
10:25	MacGyver
11:50	Feature Film — Honky Tonk Starring: Clark Gable & Lana Turner
1:05	Ramadan Talks

Sunday, February 2, 1997

1:00	Holy Koran
1:05	Min Al Hadi Al Mohammadi
1:30	Cartoon
2:00	French Programmes
2:30	The Famous Five
3:00	Feature Film — Young Giants Starring: John Huston & Peter Fox
4:50	Call For Prayer And Link With Channel One
5:30	You Bet Your Life

6:00

French Programme Magazine — Faut Pas Rever
Le Journal
Magazine — Sports Et Musique
News Headlines
7:35
Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
8:00
Oriental Rugs
8:30
Babylon-5
9:10
Tycoons (Documentary)
10:00
News In English
10:25
Islam In A Changing World (Doc.)
11:00
Hot Shots
11:50
Mini Series
Ramadan Talks

Monday, February 3, 1997

1:00	Holy Koran
1:05	Min Al Hadi Al Mohammadi
1:30	Cartoon
2:30	Deep Water Haven
3:00	Feature Film — The Case Of The Witch Who Wasn't Starring: Madeline Langlois & Stefane Gaudry
4:30	Call For Prayer And Link with Channel One
5:30	I Love Lucy
6:00	French Programme — Magazine Science — Cinq Sur Cinq
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Rosanne
8:00	Documentary
8:30	Babylon 5
9:10	Extreme (Pilot)
10:00	News In English
10:25	Journey Into The Land Of Islam
11:00	Under Suspicion
11:50	Mini Series (False Arrest)
1:05	Ramadan Talks

Tuesday, February 4, 1996

1:00	Holy Koran
1:05	Min Al Hadi Al Mohammadi
1:30	Cartoon (Captain Planet)
2:00	French Programme — Sciences Cartoon
2:30	Dog House
3:00	Feature Film — The Comrades Of Summer Starring: Joe Mantegna & Natalya Negoda
4:50	Call For Prayer And Link With Channel One
5:30	You Bet Your Life
6:00	French Programme Serie — La Lumiere Des Justes
6:15	Magazine — Extra Large
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Murphy Brown
8:02	Oriental Rugs
8:30	Encounter
9:10	Lost Civilisations (Doc.)
10:00	News In English
10:25	Islam In A Changing World (Doc.)
11:00	Snowy River
11:50	Mini Series — Memories Of Midnight
1:05	Ramadan Talks

Wednesday, February 5, 1997

1:00	Holy Koran
1:05	Min Al Hadi Al Mohammadi
1:30	Cartoon
2:30	Escape From Jupiter
3:00	Feature Film — Spotswood Starring: Anthony Hopkins & Angela Punch
4:50	Call For Prayer And Link With Channel One
5:30	The Muppet Show
6:00	French Programme Document — Ushuaia
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Baker's Field P.D.
8:00	Documentary
8:30	Challenges
9:10	N.B.A. Basketball
10:00	News In English
10:25	Journey Across The Land Of Islam
11:00	Cobra
11:50	Mini Series
1:15	Ramadan Talks

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shugair

STRANGE BELIEFS

• He who wishes to protect himself from fever has to eat the first violet blossom on his way during springtime.

• A newly-born baby's body is cleaned with the first moistened swaddle to keep up smart all his life.

• All Indian chiefs place two owl feathers on their head-gears believing that it would give them a chance to guide and lead their people amidst darkness and enslavement. The hooting of an owl heralds death in the neighbourhood.

• The Normans used to feed a drunkard with owl omelet so as to help him come to his senses.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

** Hit the right nail on the head.
Idrib alal watar al-hassas.

** Don't be stiff-necked.
La takon aneedan.

** You need not go mad!
La da'ee lil-ghadab.

** His words get on my nerves.
Kalamuhu yutheer a'sabi.

** A murrain on you!
Alaikal-la'na!

** You're throwing mud at her.
Innaka tulatikhu sum'ataha.

** That's too much for me.
Inna batha fawqa taqati.

JOKES

• FIRST: "When I speak the whole nation listens."
SECOND: "That shows how important a person you are."
FIRST: "Not at all. I'm a radio announcer."

• GEOGRAPHY TEACHER: "Now tell me where Canada is."
STUDENT: "It's on page 24, sir."

• ONE LAWYER: "You're a fool."
OTHER LAWYER: "But I'll say, you're damnfool."
JUDGE: "As the learned lawyers have identified each other, please proceed with the case."

• EMPLOYEE: "Why haven't you taken any vacation this year?"
EMPLOYER: "Because I thought I needed some rest."

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. In World War I, London was bombed by What?

2. A German optician who died in 1888 is still remembered whenever precision lenses are mentioned. Can you remember his name?

3. Can you name four animals beginning with the letter "Z"?

4. Pair them off:

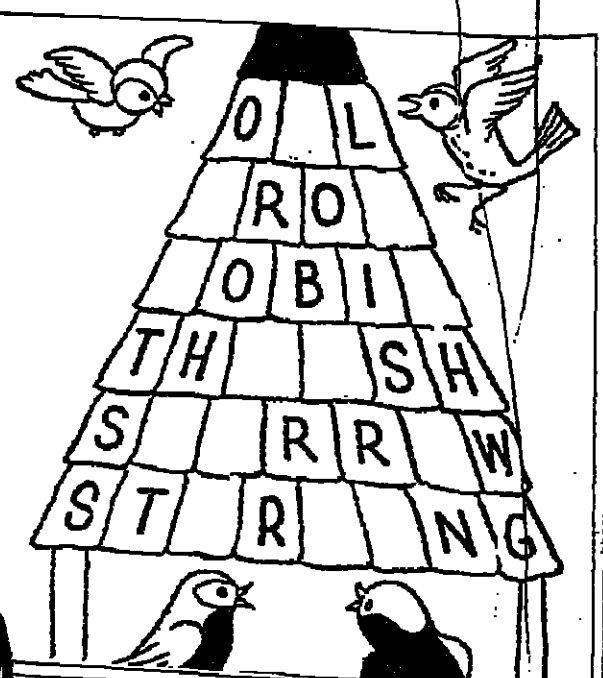
- | | |
|-------------|--|
| (a) Zaptieh | (1) Soft bath sponge |
| (b) Zeta | (2) Turkish policeman |
| (c) Zimocca | (3) Volcanic roc from Vesuvius |
| (d) Zonda | (4) Small closet chamber, especially of church |
| (e) Zurlite | (5) Hot Argentinian wind |

PUZZLES

(A) A GANG OF MEN are employed in digging a well. The proposed depth of the well is 110 ft. 10 in.; the men sink the shaft 40 ft. 6 in. in the first week. Owing to the hardness of the ground increasing as the shaft progresses, they are only able to dig 27 ft. in the second week. If in further weeks they dig at a proportionately increasing rate, how many weeks' work are needed to complete the shaft?

(B) THE BIRD HOUSE:

Fill in the spaces to name six birds.



From screen to Pop Art, culture

By Mahmoud I. Multi

CHARACTERISTICALLY, the art of the 20th century has been marked by a sense of complexity and a search for new forms of expression. This is evident in the works of the Pop Art movement, which emerged in the 1950s and 1960s. Pop Art is a visual art movement that uses imagery from popular culture, such as advertising, comic books, and everyday objects. It is characterized by its bold, graphic style and its use of mass-produced images. The movement was led by artists such as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, and Claes Oldenburg. Pop Art challenged the traditional boundaries of art and brought the everyday into the gallery. It is a reflection of the changing social and cultural landscape of the mid-20th century.

The Pop Art movement was a response to the commercialization of art and the rise of mass media. It sought to blur the lines between high art and popular culture. Artists used techniques like screen printing and collage to create works that were both visually striking and conceptually rich. Pop Art is a testament to the power of the image in the modern world and its ability to shape our perception of reality.

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Arts & Culture

Jordan Times, Thursday, January 30, 1997

RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

'From script to abstraction' — Indonesian contemporary art exhibition in Jordan
Pop Art, abstract expressionism and other artistic styles collaborate to shed light on aspects of Indonesian culture & folklore, establishing bridges of commonalities with the Jordanian socio-cultural matrix

By Mahmoud I. Mufli

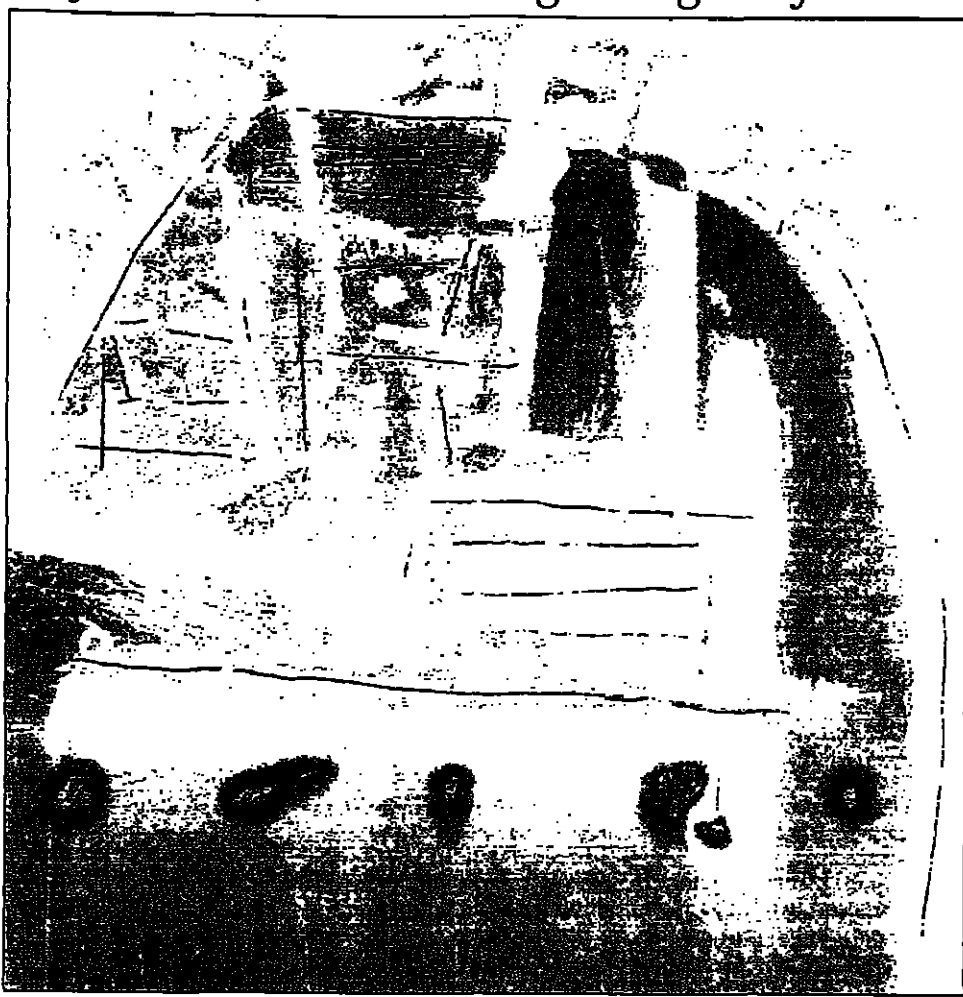
CHARACTERISTICALLY calm and reflective, and refreshingly unruffled by the masterful complexity of some of the works in this exhibition, HRH Princess Wijdan Ali, the exhibition's organiser, tilts her head pensively to one side as she contemplates a painting by Indonesian artist Amang Rahman, entitled "Under the Protection of Allah." An overwhelming sense of spirituality abounds in the work, and a subtle quarter-smile on the princess's face reveals the extent of her involvement in, and interaction with the ethereal and aesthetic dynamics of the painting. An ocean of indigos, ultramarine blues, turquoise, sky-blues and cloud-white progressively culminate in a contrivance of heavenly ascension. Though "contrivance" in the creative, fantastical sense of the word.

The immediate foreground, rendered in provocatively contrasting hues of oriental topaz, is pockmarked with images of to-ga-clad people — worshippers, most probably — arms outstretched towards the oceanic progression that evokes the atmosphere of the Ka'ba. Somewhat eerie at first glance, due to the presence of what the imaginative among us might plausibly surmise the near-death experience to be, the work shortly thereafter succeeds in instilling the contrasting sentiment of serenity in the viewer's sensibilities, albeit of the totally 'unworldly' and celestial sort.

Oddly (given the vast stylistic and thematic divergence), one nonetheless finds it possible to recall Albrecht Altdorfer's "Battle of Alexander at Issus." The latter, a 16th century oil-on-panel painting, rendered in the classical academic style, depicts an epic battle scene underneath a brilliantly clouded sky that seems to be brewing into a galactic vortex. In place of Rahman's sky-reaching, Ka'ba-like structure, is a majestic mountain that visually and symbolically links the detailed fore-and-middle-ground with the sky. But, whereas in Altdorfer's depiction, the foreground is dominated by a mighty battle-scene (recounting the victory of Alexander's troops over Darius's), Rahman's far gentler — but equally uncompromisingly vivid foreground — alludes not so much to a battle, but to a tenuous and earnest striving by a small band of people to reach to the beckoning heavens, as if in a final and decisive attempt to attain salvation. The commonalities between the two works lie in a shared fantastical realm that denotes, with great severity, the notions of absolute finality and decisive transcendence, on the one hand, and a sense of the epic, on the other. They are both extremely atmospheric and drippingly laden with allegory. However, this is where the similarities end.

Discovering that this painting's artist, Amang Rahman, is also a poet, reinforces the emanant feelings of lyrical poetry, mysticism, perhaps even Sufi'ism. Biographical text on the artist describes his work in terms of: "The expanse of nature and life are the 'schools' from which he derives his knowledge.... A world of silence, a world of mystery.... These mysterious blue and green colours [in his works] have become his obsession and the colours which he has mastered."

Mr. Rahman's own attestation expounds that: "the colour of heaven is blue, but a blue which is not presently known; it contains a green, but a green which is not presently seen." Seen from that perspective, and optionally denuded from the spiritual element, the work effectively becomes a treatise on the emergence of colours and their interrela-



Azdan From Lime Stone Hill by Sunaryo

tionships. Viewed from that vantage point, or the first, the kindred elements of subliminality, aesthetic purposefulness, and spiritual evocation are convincingly enmeshed together in a visual matrix that possesses both equilibrium and interpretational freedom.

Yet these endowments are by no means singular to this particular work by this particular artist. Variants of these qualities are evident in many of the exhibits, the creators of which join Mr. Rahman in the ranks of Indonesia's diverse repertoire of accomplished and established artists. However, this particular exhibition's ten-artist-ensemble — collectively responsible for the creative splendour of the sixty exhibited works — is comprised of: A.D. Pirus, Dwijio Sukatmo, Erna Gar-nasih Pirus, Haryadi Suadi, Heyi Ma'mun, Setiawan Sabana, Tisna Sanjaya, Umi Dachlan, Sunaryo and, of course, the now relatively familiar Amang Rahman. The Indonesian Archipelago's national motto, "Unity in Diversity," is truly evident here.

Running parallel in importance to the exhibition's aesthetic value — and indeed, its ultimate function as a "window unto an entire culture" — are the implications for Jordanian-Indonesian cultural exchange. "This endeavour represents the beginning of cultural interchange between the two countries. The Jordanian Royal Society of Fine Arts has been invited to organise a Jordanian art exhibition in Indonesia next year, to include 60 artworks from the permanent collection of the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts. These will be displayed alongside works from the permanent collection of the Indonesian Art Museum, that includes art exhibits from several developing countries, as well as Malaysian art," explains HRH Princess Wijdan, president of the Royal Society of Fine Arts and executive director of the exhibition's hosting institution, the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

The latter, cosily and understatedly nestled among wild pine trees of one of old Amman's most established residential neighbourhoods, Jabal Luweibdeh, witnessed the opening, by Her Majesty Queen Noor, of what was to have been a one-month-long exhibition (Dec. 12, 1996 — Jan. 12, 1997). Responding to incessant visitations by art-lovers from all walks of life, the exhibits have been kept on extended display. Moreover, under a cultural-interchange agreement signed by Princess Wijdan and a representative of the Indonesian government, the National Gallery

will be gifted 10 of the artworks in the exhibition. Collectively, their styles vary from abstract expressionism, symbolism, poetic surrealism, modern impressionism, pop-art, etc., involving multi-media, diverse textures and imagery of totem symbols.

Moving on in the exhibition, the viewer's attention experiences sharp tugs from some of the artists' works, as well as milder (and, in one or two cases, inconsequential) tugs from others. For instance, as an example of one of the more evocative works, Dwijio Sukatmo's depiction of part-superimposed, part-recurring images of what seems like a hunched-over female pilgrim/wanderer, comes across as a stylistic hybrid between Maurits Escher's transformative graphic prints, Giacomo Balla's "Flight of the Swallows," and Umberto Boccioni's "Head, Light, and Surroundings." Though the core subject of Sukatmo's theme, the presumed pilgrim lady, pertains more to Islamic culture than European, the artistic style borrows heavily from the latter influence. Balla and Boccioni were both Italian, while Escher was Dutch. The viewer is advised that the parallels drawn here are purely the outcome of the writer's personal interaction with the said works and, as such, lie in the realm of the subjective, not objective. The same works may quite likely appear detached from the analogies constructed by this writer-viewer.

Also reflective of Islamic culture, though more so, is a multi-media work by Umi Dachlan. Depicting the atmosphere of the Muslim pilgrimage, the Haj, Dachlan portrays Mount Arafat under the stars, in a way that imbues the work with a profusion of spirituality. Appropriately, she entitles the work "Waiting for the Night of Lailatul Qadar" (the latter being the holiest night in Islam; one that witnessed both the inaugural revelation of the Holy Koran as well as the birth of the Prophet Mohammad, peace be upon him). Coins of a common denomination are used as decorative elements in the work, where, at this stage, they are made to abandon their mundane traditional function as a form of currency. The artist affixes several of them in a manner intended to provide further contrast in the multi-media composition of the work, but also for the dual purpose of achieving aesthetic balance, harmony and equilibrium, as well as making the statement that everyday objects (such as coins are), are capable of assuming roles totally different than those imposed upon

them by society..... even achieving pleasing visual effects in an unconventional contextual placement. Thus positioned, all their banality is exorcised.

Another artist, simply calling himself "Sunaryo," (though with talent and acclaim sufficiently abundant to justify such excursions into egotistical indulgences), projects an environmentally-responsible stance by tapping the unadulterated raw beauty of organic substances. He makes tasteful use of a collage-matrix of basket-weave, bamboo-sticks and jute-based burlap to achieve his vividly abstract depictions, "Nature and Tradition," "Gold and Environment," "Fish Trap at the Edge of the Shore," etc. Predictably, the finished work, with its dramatic protrusions and recesses, takes on the look of relief-work of a rudimentary nature. Here, the sea is strongly evoked without so much as the use of the colour blue, its offshoots or derivatives. This goes to reveal the defunctness of the traditional notion that only oil, acrylic, water-colour, pastel, charcoal, etc., can make a painting "a painting." In actuality, the work is sophisticated and not so rudimentary, imbuing the relief's relatively mild three-dimensional characteristics with a compellingly-provocative aura. The effect is not too much unlike that achieved in some of Alberto Burri's earlier work of the 1950's. Burri, similarly, uses burlap, linen and oil on board, though makes do with the less elegant visual effect of gold paint in place of the coveted (though far costlier) gold-leaf.

Opting for an art-form that leaves somewhat less to be read between the lines, Tisna Sanjaya presents a series of iconographic, installation-type artworks (entitled "The Art from the Prosperous Country, I-VI). Virtually anything that was within reach at the time of the genesis of this series was incorporated into the work. The artist skillfully, albeit mysteriously, uses cut-outs of important-looking cult figures from magazines, pasted over simple backgrounds painted in minimalist and naive styles, with smatterings of letters, disjointed words and sentences sprawled here and there, everywhere. A symbolic handshake between two leaders is matched by the presence of a pair of gloves directly beneath the photographed hands, projecting a similar hand-shaking gesture. The allusion therein appears to be one of unmistakable sardonicism, idiosyncrasy, fallaciousness and, in particular instances, ignominiousness — elements that would seem to

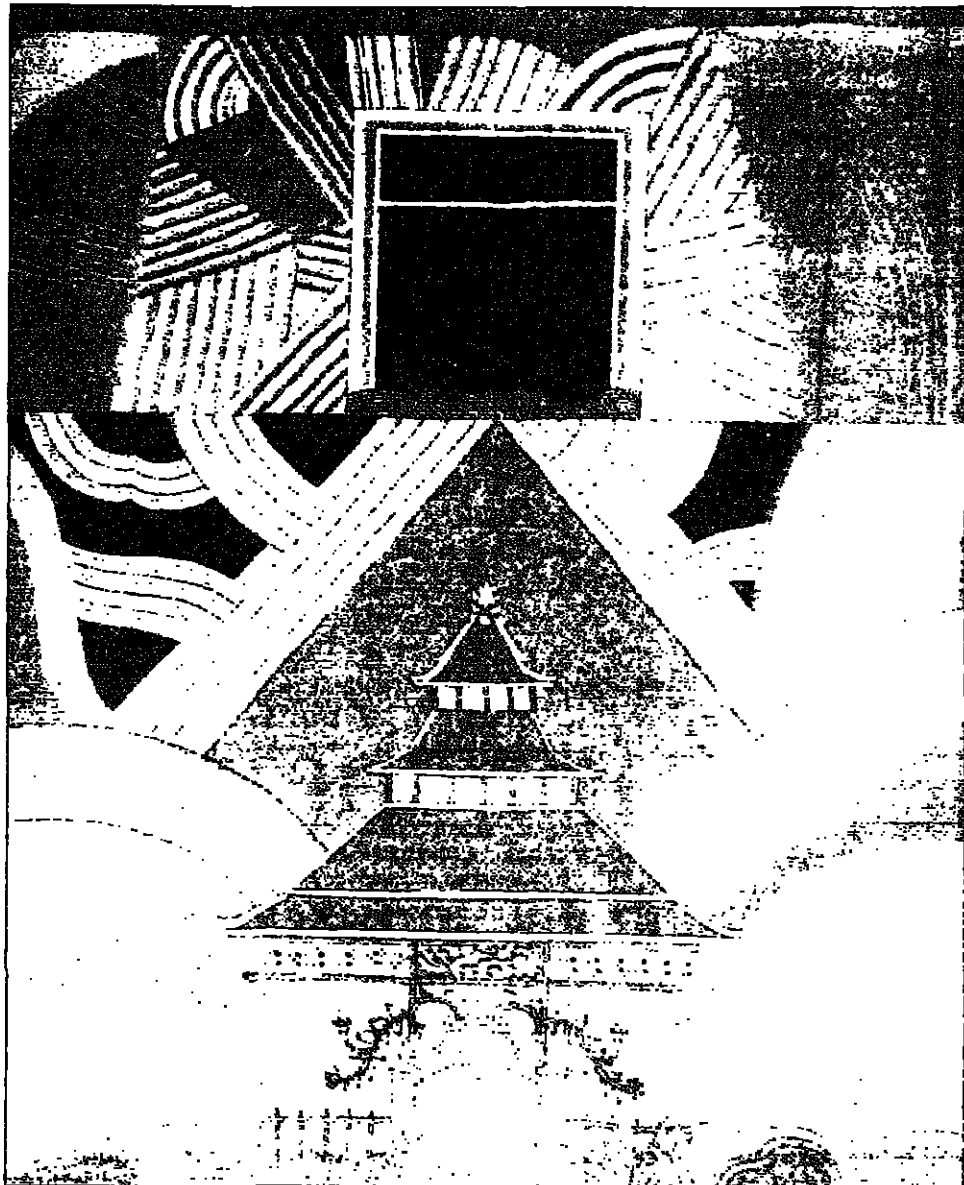
have belonged more indigenously in the anti-establishment days of the 60's than the 90's.

And if one had been somewhat hasty, earlier on, in admonishing the use of gold-spray instead of gold-leaf, one needs to brace up now to being greeted with a sanguine minstrelsy of sprayed-on colours that leave the natural spectrum of the rainbow looking almost 'dull-and-dowdy' by comparison. But as far as this sort of Pop Art goes — hallmarked by the use of symbols from advertising, contemporary mass media and popular culture, with collage-work as one of the major components of the execution-process —

Sanjaya's work seems no less innovative, original or accomplished than that of the celebrated artists who have dabbled, at considerable depth, in this virtually parameter-less school of cynical imagery: the likes of Sigmar Polke, Robert Rauschenberg, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Joseph Cornell, Gilbert Proesch, George Pasmore, George Grosz, Raoul Hausmann, Tom Wesselman, and Richard Hamilton. And contrary to popular belief that Pop Art is a new genre, it is worth noting that the works produced by these masters spanned a period from 1919 (in the case of Hausmann) to 1991 (in the case of Proesch and Pasmore).

The remaining works in the exhibit are every bit as much deserving of scrutiny, and nowhere more appropriate than on-location, in the exhibition hall itself (for instance, Sabana's "The Energy of Nature", A.D. Pirus' "Middle East Dream", Suadi's "The Ka'bah and the Mosque", E.G. Pirus' "Maghrib at West Lombok", and Ma'mun's "Mist on Earth", in addition to additional works by the same artists.

Delivering an exhaustive presentation paper on the occasion of the current exhibition, entitled "Development and Current Issues in Contemporary Indonesian Art," Professor A.D. Pirus of the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), Indonesia, explains: "In culture,



The Ka'bah And The Mosque by Haryadi Suadi

particularly in art, if one observes it closely, one can see the exploration of each artist in search of his or her local colours, in expressions or in media (materials and techniques), and equipment. Dependence on art theories and art creativity-forms in developed countries (especially the West) began to wane, or at least began to be challenged by culture and art advocates of developing nations, and the form of paradigms and thoughts reactive to existing Western points of view."

The professor expounds that the ensuing progression in his country's art movement and culture are directly correlated to, and reflective of the concerns and apprehensions pertaining to the state of the human con-

dition and society at large (in all its facets, inclusive as much of the economic and environmental elements, as of the political). To such effect, he highlights that: "The rise in socio-political consciousness has encouraged critical attitudes toward politics at home. Many forms of expressions of concern for imbalances and disparities in the existing political order show up and down. Many commentaries, responses, and critical acts against social injustices and criminal acts come to rise among problems in Indonesian society."

More closely to home, it would seem judicious to likewise ask ourselves: "What are the implications for Jordan, and how can an increased state of societal

awareness and responsibility (of which culture and art are but some of the yardsticks) contribute to the remedying of social injustices and rampant discrepancies resulting from lapses in social solidarity and social ethics?" Art will hardly likely prove to be the answer, in and of itself, but its contribution may lie in its gradual — though steady inclination — to positively impact people's intellects and sensitise them to a higher threshold and quality of awareness.

The exhibition is held at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Luweibdeh, Amman, and will remain open for several more days. Please inquire at 630128.



Celebrity painter Liu Yu Yi stands before a gigantic painting of what he envisions will be Hong Kong's celebration of its return to Chinese rule this year. Spanning an entire wall in his home in Hong Kong's posh Mid-Levels district, the oil work depicts over 200 famous personalities at a handover feast, with China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping at centre stage (Reuter photo)

Talent, history make celebrity of Chinese painter

By Tan Ee Lyn
Reuter

HONG KONG — Long before Hong Kong's handover to China, celebrity painter Liu Yu Yi, whose portrait subjects include Beijing's leaders, is already benefiting from the return of Britain's last Asian outpost to the Chinese fold. Spanning an entire wall in his home in Hong Kong's posh Mid-Levels district is an almost finished oil paint-

ing depicting over 200 famous personalities at a feast celebrating the handover at midnight on June 30.

Central on the canvas is China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, the man hailed as the architect of the "one country, two systems" formula under which Hong Kong would be treated after the handover.

Raising a toast, Mr. Deng is flanked by President Jiang Zemin. Premier Li

Peng and Tung Chee-Hwa, the man who will run Hong Kong after Britain hands back its colony of more than 150 years.

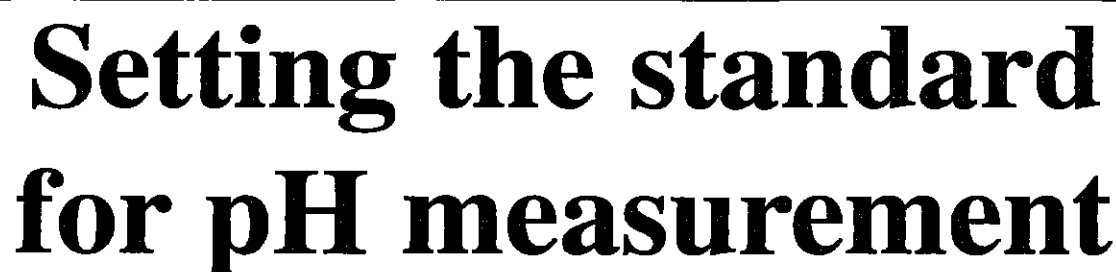
"I am using art to capture this momentous event that is watched by all nations of the world," Liu, reclining on a sofa, told Reuters during an interview.

Trained at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, Liu shot to fame in 1993 when he sold "Liang Xiao" (Festive Evening) —

a flashback to a historic gathering of China's leaders in 1950 — for 8.36 million Hong Kong dollars (\$1.08 million).

It was the highest price paid for a contemporary Chinese work of art, and he has been hitting jackpots ever since.

He sold Song Of The Goddess Nu Wa for 8.88 million Hong Kong dollars in 1994 and Gathering Of Immortals for 10.8 million Hong Kong dollars in 1995.



The company is in the Teaching Company Scheme of the School of Mechanical, Aeronautical and Production Engineering at Kingston University Faculty of Technology — London Press Service.

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phy, an expert on the immune system at the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

Human wart virus, also known as papilloma virus, is strongly associated with cervical cancer. Hepatitis B

including informing consumers about available treatment, developing performance standards for behavioural health care, removing barriers to proper diagnosis, urging col-

Mr. Freedman also said he had yet to prove his theory

(A) Four further weeks, making six in all.

(B)

1. OWL.
2. CROW.
3. ROBIN.
4. THRUSH.
5. SPARROW.
6. STERLING.

(Continued from page 1)

me Mr. Peters' first govern-
ment, and he was present
when the cabinet debated
setting up the so-called
security zone.

"When we took the deci-
sion, nobody around the
table dreamed it would take
12 years to even consider a
change of policy," Mr.
Beilin told the Associated
Press. "It was a kind of
temporary situation."

Mr. Beilin said Israel

Jordan mandates Merrill Lynch as JTC financial advisor

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government on Wednesday signed a formal agreement granting an international consortium the mandate to act as its financial advisor in marketing part of the state equity in the Jordan Telecommunications Company (JTC).

The agreement entrusted the consortium, headed by Merrill Lynch, with finding the appropriate framework and setting the ground to identify a "strategic partner" to buy 26 per cent of the company's equity.

Post and Telecommu-

nications Minister Jamal Sarairoh and Merrill Lynch Executive Director of Investment Departments, Jeffrey Bennet, signed the agreement.

The formal agreement naming the consortium as financial advisor completes a major step in the moves to privatise the JTC which remains fully government owned but is registered as a commercial entity governed by the Companies Law with a JD 250 million paid-up capital.

The consortium, which will be given \$1 million as "service fee," will also be closely involved in the actual sale of the equity and earn a percentage of the proceeds

as "success fee."

The consortium, which includes the Export and Finance Bank of Jordan and Booz Allen and Hamilton of the U.S., won the mandate from among 19 offers submitted by international banking and investment groups.

The JTC, the successor of the state-owned Telecommunications Corporation, will be privatised in two stages. In the first stage, the "strategic partner" will be brought in and, in the second stage, the rest of the state equity in the company will be offered through local, regional and international subscription. A part of the

equity will be given to JTC employees.

The selection process of the financial advisor was done with help from international experts and with the close involvement of the World Bank.

The next step in the privatisation of the JTC is an evaluation of the company in all its aspects before placing it under suitable conditions for the "strategic partner" to come in.

This would entail a close study of the actual assets and other financial aspects of the JTC, including cash flow and other relevant details, before inviting bids from international groups closely involved

in global communications as the "strategic partner."

"We accepted the offer from among a total of 17 in a very transparent process that involved the Audit Bureau, the Central Bank of Jordan and other concerned institutions," said Mr. Sarairoh, adding that the Merrill Lynch offer was the lowest.

The rationale behind the "success fee," he explained early this month, was that it was a strong incentive for the consultant group to get the optimum price for the equity because it would get a percentage of the amount.

The financial advisor

will conduct an evaluation of the actual worth of the company in terms of assets, liabilities, etc. before drawing up tender documents for bidders to become the "strategic partner," he said.

This process is expected to be completed by July, with the final acceptance of a bidder before the end of the year.

The proceeds from the sale of JTC equity will be deposited in a special account with the Central Bank of Jordan and will be allocated for development projects.

West Bank to get first luxury hotel

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AFP) — Palestinian investors backed by international financial organisations will begin construction here soon of the West Bank's first luxury hotel, it was reported Wednesday.

The Ramallah Park Plaza — with 220 rooms, an 800-seat conference centre, sports facilities and gourmet restaurants — is slated to open in May 1999, coincidentally the deadline for reaching a final peace settlement between Palestinians and Israelis, the local Al Ayyam newspaper reported.

Nasser Abdulhad, director of the Arab Hotels Company, which is financing the project with help from the European Investment Bank and the Development Bank

of Holland, put the total cost of the project at \$26 million.

"It will run by the Park Plaza management company, which currently manages some 200 hotels around the world," he told the newspaper.

Ramallah, considered the banking capital of the Palestinian territories, has been run by Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority since December 1995.

Mr. Abdulhad said excavations for the hotel, to be situated on a hilltop with a view of occupied Jerusalem 10 kilometres away, would begin in coming days.

The only other luxury hotel in the Palestinian territories is the Windmill, which opened late last year on the Gaza City seaford.

Ajman to build major tourist resort

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A tiny Gulf emirate is planning to build a fun city and other tourist facilities in a drive to attract more visitors and develop its economy, the emirate has said.

The project in Ajman, to cost around two billion dirhams (\$544 million), includes a hotel, apartments, a fun city, parks, and shops, said Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, the crown prince of the emirate.

"We have received bids from international companies for the project. It will be financed jointly by the government and the private sector and some firms

have already showed interest," he told Al Khaleej newspaper.

Ajman, which has no oil, is one of the smallest members of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with a population of around 50,000 and gross domestic product of nearly two billion dirhams (\$544 million) in 1995.

Sheikh Ammar said Ajman had rejected offers by international firms to build an oil refinery in the northern emirate because "it is a small emirate and we do not want projects that will affect its environment."

Companies clamour for slots in UAE airport free zone

DUBAI (AFP) — U.S. companies Boeing and IBM are among more than 200 foreign firms which have asked to set up businesses in a free-trade zone opening later this year at Dubai International Airport, officials have said.

The U.S. aircraft manufacturer and computer company want to use the zone as a spare-parts supply centre. Mohieddine bin Hindi, director general of Dubai Civil Aviation, told Al Khaleej newspaper.

The German automobile firms Audi and Porsche also want to set up in the

zone which will cover almost two million square meters when it begins operating at the end of the year.

Air freight business to the former republics of the Soviet Union and other areas in the region has grown sharply.

Dubai, the trade hub of the United Arab Emirates, already has a free-trade zone in Jebel Ali where around 900 local and foreign companies have invested about \$3 billion in distribution, manufacturing and other businesses.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Prices of bank shares may drop on large supply of new issues

**** EIGHT JORDANIAN banks have to issue 74.4 million shares this year to raise their combined capital from JD87.58 million to JD162 million in accordance with Central Bank regulations that require all banks in Jordan to have a minimum capital of JD20 million each by the end of 1997.**

Four banks should have raised their capital to the JD20 million as required by the end of 1996 but only one, the Union Bank for Saving and Investment, completed the requirement by raising its capital from JD11 million to the JD20 million level.

Approval was given by the Central Bank and the general assembly of the Amman Bank for Investment (ABI) to restructure the capital and issue 15 million new shares to bring ABI's capital to JD20 million but so far no information has emerged on the results of the process for raising the capital.

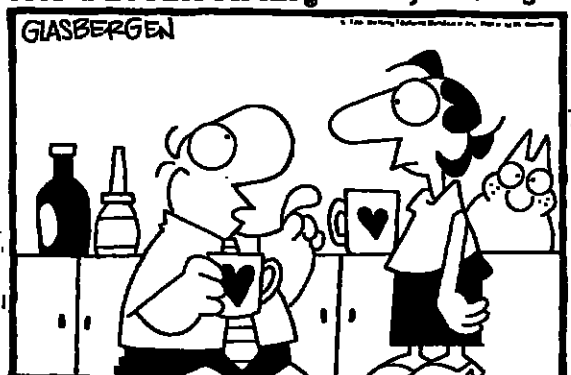
Two other banks, the Philadelphia Investment Bank and the Middle East Investment Bank, did not issue new shares in 1996 as required although a decision by their management were taken to raise the capital of each to JD20 million. As such, they are obliged to issue new shares this year in addition to the aforementioned eight banks.

The Arab Bank, the Housing Bank, the Jordan Gulf and the Export and Finance Bank are not affected by the Central Bank requirement as their capitals were JD44 million, JD25 million, JD20 million and JD20 million respectively at the end of 1996.

Although not all the increases will be by offering shares to the public, as banks plan to capitalise part of their reserves, analysts expect about 100 million shares to be added to the market. As such, dealers at the stock exchange (Amman Financial Market) predict that bank shares will be negatively affected and that their prices will retreat due to the large supply amid the liquidity problem that prevails at the stock market (Al Aswaq).

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



"I didn't get to the store yesterday. Would you rather have ketchup in your coffee or mustard?"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

POSOT
THICH
JOACLE
KLUBEC

Print answer here: _____ of _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: ELUDE SPURN MOTIVE CANKER
Answer: What the New Year's Eve revelers considered the tipsy singer — A NOISE-MAKER

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARISANI											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 29/01/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANG.	PERCENT	CHANG.
261.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	14.0	1.37	2	10220	255.50	251.50	-3.99	-1.56	-1.56
1.210	.980	MID. EAST INV. BK.	74.9	0.00	2	8300	7198	1.15	1.14	0.01	0.01
2.700	2.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.3	6.00	4	650	1514	2.30	2.31	0.01	0.01
2.950	2.440	JOR. KUWAIT BANK	19.7	0.00	8	18980	51275	2.71	2.72	0.01	0.01
1.090	.880	JOR. GULF BANK	5.7	7.25	5	20710	19920	2.50	2.48	-0.02	-0.02
4.180	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	18.0	0.00	10	2450	12966	3.76	3.75	-0.01	-0.01
3.800	3.000	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	19.4	0.00	2	200	718	3.60	3.59	-0.01	-0.01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 194.89 CHNG: -0.01											
1.830	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.0	7.55	18	24950	39671	1.89	1.89	0.00	0.00
9.250	7.800	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	17.7	1.99	1	30000	247500	8.25	8.25	0.00	0.00
1.560	1.280	IBRID ELECTRICITY	9.8	6.67	1	1000	4950	1.43	1.50	0.07	0.07
2.800	2.080	SEAFING LINES	10.4	8.11	4	4210	10414	2.50	2.48	-0.02	-0.02
1.600	1.080	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	12	3470	4142	1.19	1.17	-0.02	-0.02
1.060	.580	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	30.8	0.00	1	500	303	.62	.62	0.00	0.00
3.720	3.130	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	12.0	5.65	8	1400	6609	2.62	2.64	0.02	0.02
2.250	1.890	UNITED CO.	12.0	4.78	28	12850	26857	2.10	2.09	-0.01	-0.01
1.200	.820	UNION LAND DEV.	11.0	0.00	2	2000	1680	.84	.84	0.00	0.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 111.81 CHNG: -0.63											
3.730	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.6	2.92	22	40470	104203	3.42	3.43	0.01	0.01
6.000	4.950	ARAB POTASH CO.	12.6	3.65	2	400	3154	5.84	5.85	0.01	0.01
10.100	8.100	JOR. PETRO. REFINERY	10.0	8.11	6	760	7511	9.90	9.87	-0.03	-0.03
3.560	1.850	INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	34.0	0.00	4	950	2380	2.55	2.54	-0.01	-0.01
7.950	6.420	JOR. WOODST. MILLS	8.9	3.60	2	1500	10425	6.95	6.94	-0.01	-0.01
4.580	3.040	ARAB STEEL	19.9	5.52	4	1200	4340	3.61	3.60	-0.01	-0.01
7.350	4.250	DAR ALDAMA DR. INV.	12.6	4.35	5	1250	5750	4.62	4.60	-0.02	-0.02
.960	.650	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	18	28500	27000	.61	.61	0.00	0.00
1.440	1.060	ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD.	8	0.00	7	2100	3703	.77	.77	0.00	0.00
1.020	.840	NATIONAL INDS.	9.8	9.04	18	6650	4000	.67	.67	0.00	0.00
1.540	.930	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	11	1150	6647	.106	.106	0.00	0.00
1.150	.780	JOR. ROPEWORK INDS.	9	0.00	4	1200	948	.80	.80	0.00	0.00
3.120	2.130	UNIV. MOH. INDS.	9.1	11.50	9	900	1871	1.66	1.66	0.00	0.00
1.200	.870	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	9	0.00	1	50	600	.82	.82	0.00	0.00
1.670	1.080	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	26.6	0.00	12	950	7405	.81	.81	0.00	0.00
3.120	2.440	UNIV. MOH. INDS.	9.1	11.50	9	900	1871	1.66	1.66	0.00	0.00
1.930	1.140	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	16.4	0.00	7	2950	3740	.31	.31	0.00	0.00
1.340	.840	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	25.0	0.00	32	10050	27606	.93	.93	0.00	0.00
1.380	1.080	UNIV. TOBACCO	29.6	0.00	12	23850	29855	1.25	1.25	0.00	0.00
1.540	.930	UNIV. CH. & VEG.	24.6	0.00	5	2350	2380	.200	.200	0.00	0.00
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 115.72 CHNG: -0.57											
GRAND TOTAL											
INDEX: 153.16 CHNG: -0.15											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 29/01/1997											
1.800	.800	JOR. TRADE PAC.	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.80	.80	0.00	0.00
1.800	.800	ZAR. FOR INVESTMENT	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.80	.80	0.00	0.00
.890	.700	UNION INV. 50	18.0	0.00	2	400	400	.70	.70	0.00	0.00
.950	.370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.37	.37	0.00	0.00
.950	.640	AL-BANATIAN TRD.	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.64	.64	0.00	0.00
.640	.270	JOR. INDS. MATCH-JENCO	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.27	.27	0.00	0.00
.800	.510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.51	.51	0.00	0.00
1.690	1.300	NATL. CHLORINE	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	1.30	1.30	0.00	0.00
.690	.450	ARAB TITL. INV. TRD.	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.45	.45	0.00	0.00
.860	.520	NATL. TEXTILE	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.52	.52	0.00	0.00
.920	.400	NATL. MULT. ENG. NAMICO	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.40	.40	0.00	0.00
.740	.420	NATL. DYES & NOZZLES	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.42	.42	0.00	0.00
.990	.720	JORDAN STEEL	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.72	.72	0.00	0.00
.760	.420	MID-EAST PHARM. 25	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.42	.42	0.00	0.00
1.330	1.020	UNION TOBACCO 25	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	1.02	1.02	0.00	0.00
.770	.470	RASL PHARM. 65	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.47	.47	0.00	0.00
.740	.390	INDS. ENG.	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.39	.39	0.00	0.00
.800	.580	PEARL S.S. P. CONV.	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.58	.58	0.00	0.00
.820	.590	NATL. POLYMER	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.59	.59	0.00	0.00
.950	.530	MID-EAST COMPLEX	11.1	0.00	2	400	400	.53	.53	0.00	0.00

Alpine skiing Sykora seeks revenge

SCHLADMING, Austria (R) — Thomas Sykora, the dominant figure in men's slalom this season, says he has learned his lesson from his disappointing seventh place last Sunday and is ready to win again on Thursday.

Sunday's World Cup slalom in Kitzbuehel saw Sykora fail to make the podium for the first time in a year and the Austrian is determined to make amends in Schlading.

"My result in Kitzbuehel was a real punch in the face. But maybe it came at the right time, as a warning that I am not as invincible as I thought," said the 28-year-old Sykora.

In Kitzbuehel, Sykora was suffering from hip pains after a heavy fall during practice but he refused to offer the injury as an excuse for his defeat.

"I made a really terrible mistake at the bottom. I simply risked too much. It was completely my fault," he said.

"I would like to congratulate Austria's Mario Reiter for winning Kitzbuehel. He won because he was the better skier and not because I was injured. But I want revenge in Schlading," said Sykora, who has won five of the seven slaloms staged so far and finished second once.

Victory in Thursday's race, which will be held at night under floodlights in a dress rehearsal for the world championship slalom in Sestriere, Italy, would give Sykora the slalom World Cup, with two races still to go.

Alberto Tomba's participation in

Schlading is, as ever, the subject of debate. The Italian Olympic and world champion, recently recovered from influenza and injury, may want to save his energies for Sestriere.

Reiter is looking forward to Schlading, which he considers good practice for the February 16 championship slalom which will also be staged at night.

Victory in Kitzbuehel came as a relief for Reiter, guaranteeing him a place in the World Championships, which open on Sunday, after a poor start to the season due to health problems.

"Before Kitzbuehel I was only the fifth-best Austrian and only four can participate in Sestriere," said Reiter, who is now sure of a place along with Sykora and the consistent Thomas Stangassinger.

Austria's fourth championship slalom bib will be the subject of a fight in Schlading between Siegfried Vogreiter and Christian Mayer.

Reigning Olympic slalom champion Stangassinger, who this winter has finished second three times and third twice, was disappointed with fourth place in Kitzbuehel.

Stangassinger will have to finish ahead of Sykora in Schlading if he wants to keep alive his slim chances of winning the slalom World Cup.

Graf easily wins in Tokyo as Majoli advances

TOKYO (R) — Steffi Graf ended a week of personal and sporting losses on Wednesday with an easy victory over Lisa Raymond of the United States in the second round of the Pan-Pacific women's open.

Looking relaxed for the first time in days, Graf won the hour-long match 6-3, 6-2.

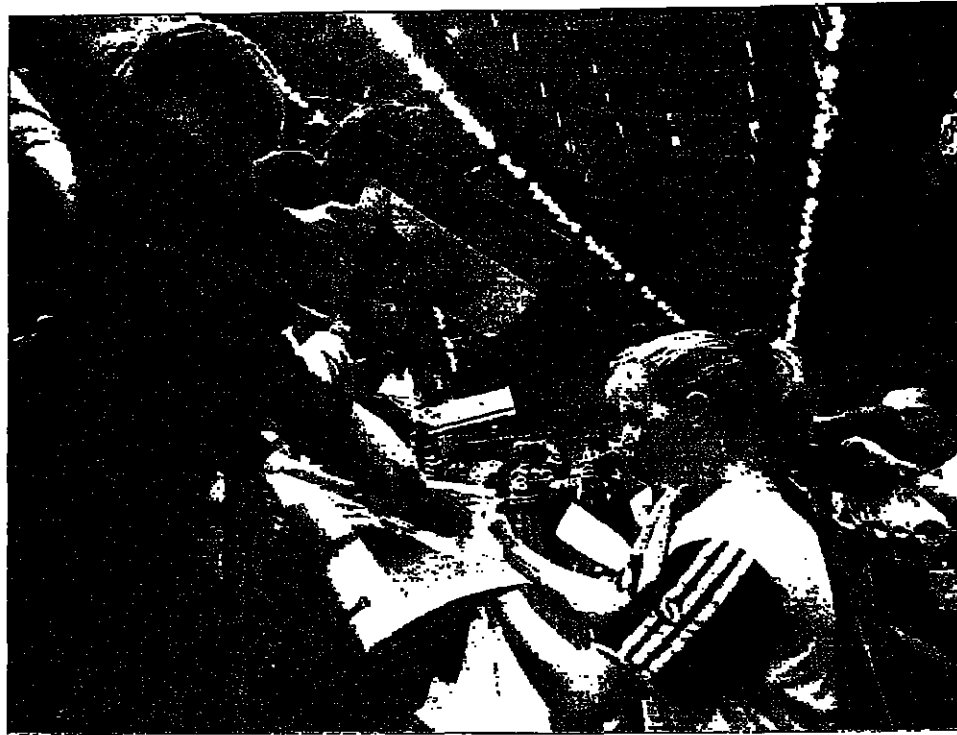
Graf, who in the past week has been knocked out of the Australian Open in the fourth round and saw her father convicted of tax evasion, made her return to tennis Tuesday in an exhibition doubles match with American Pam Shriver, which she also won.

But her game Wednesday against Raymond was her first serious competition appearance and she showed no signs of either the injuries which hampered her at the Australian Open or the personal strain from her father Peter Graf's conviction.

The German did not drop her serve once in the indoor match on artificial turf.

A court in Mannheim, Germany, last Friday sentenced Peter Graf to three years and nine months in jail for evading tax amounting to 12 million marks (\$7.4 million) on his daughter's earnings.

Graf, who is under investigation herself in the affair,



Steffi Graf of Germany signs autographs for her Japanese fans after beating U.S. Lisa Raymond 6-3 6-2 in the second round match of the Pan-Pacific Open women's tennis tournament in Tokyo. Graf on Wednesday broke her silence about her father's conviction for tax evasion, saying it was not affecting her play (Reuters photo)

is the top seed in the Pan-Pacific and had a first-round bye in the singles of the \$926,000 event.

Majoli defends title

Iva Majoli faced tough times finding a rhythm to match the fast surface of the court at the start of her title

defence at the Toray Pan-Pacific Open women's tennis tournament Wednesday.

The 19-year-old Croat, pitted against Ludmilla Varmuzova of San Marino in her first match since a first-round loss at the Australian Open, stormed back from 2-5 down in the second set, saving two set

points, before scoring a 6-4, 7-5 victory over the qualifier.

"The first match is always the toughest one. But it's great to come back as the defending champion. Hopefully, I can do well again this year. It's still a long way to go, but I've been playing some good

matches here," said Majoli. Both Majoli and Varmuzova had five break chances in the first set, with the Croat converting twice and Varmuzova once.

Majoli made a forehand error four times in a row to go down 2-4 in the second set and failed to break back in the seventh game after having five advantage points.

Majoli, however, never stopped hitting hard and stayed off Varmuzova's double set points at 15-40 in the ninth game, forcing her into making errors. She did not give another chance to a dispirited Varmuzova.

"I think I gave her a chance to start playing better in the second set," said Majoli after the 90-minute match.

Majoli's second-round opponent is Japan's ace Ai Sugiyama, the winner over Alexia Dechaume-Balleret of France Tuesday.

Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, semifinalist at Melbourne last week, shrugged off a slow start, taking eight straight games from 0-4 down before beating Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia 6-4, 6-1.

Seventh-seeded Irina Spirlea of Romania was a straight forward 6-3, 6-4 winner over Elena Likhovtseva of Russia.

Banned Lu returns with World Cup win

GLASGOW (R) — Chinese world champion Lu Bin made a winning return to competition abroad on Tuesday after serving a two-year doping ban.

Lu was one of seven Chinese swimmers who tested positive at the October 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima and were banned for two years.

She trained throughout her suspension and returned to international competition in the Beijing leg of the eight-venue World Cup series earlier this month.

She managed just two fifth places and one sixth in Beijing but on Tuesday celebrated her first appearance in Europe since the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima a month later she

obliterated the 200 individual medley world record but the time was annulled after the positive dope test.

She has always denied taking drugs and suggests her sample might have been tampered with. "One thing is for sure, I never took any drugs," she said, her words translated by a Chinese team official, after Tuesday's victory.

Lu made a spectacular Mark in the 1994 World Championships as a 17-year-old, winning the 200 individual medley, sharing in two Chinese relay victories and taking silver medals in the 100 and 200 freestyle.

Lu, 20 earlier this month, won the 50 metres backstroke in 28.74 seconds, seizing the lead with a long underwater start and holding off French challenger Anne-Francoise Ghahre on the return length of Glasgow's new Tollcross Park pool.

Lu had earlier failed to make the final of the 200 metres backstroke but backstroke is not her speciality and she is using it to feel her way back into competition before resuming her main events.

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مؤسسة الامارات للاتصالات - اتصالات Emirates Telecommunications Corporation - Etisalat

Job Opportunities in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Emirates Telecommunications Corporation - Etisalat, the official telecoms administration of the United Arab Emirates invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the following positions at its Computer Department in Abu Dhabi.

Job #1: Computer Technical Analyst (Ref. TA/KSA/97)

Salary: Dhs.10,463/- per month including transport allowance.
Requirements: Graduate in Computer Science with minimum of 7 years experience in network equipment maintenance and operation systems management. A good knowledge of UNIX databases is required and exposure to various operating systems would be well regarded.

Job #2: Sr. Systems Analyst (Ref. SSA/KSA/97)

Salary: Dhs.10,463/- per month including transport allowance.
Requirements: Graduate in Computer Science or related discipline with a minimum of 7 years experience in application software design, development and implementation. The incumbent is expected to lead a team of analysts and programmers executing the in-house software development projects. Knowledge of UNIX and INGRES/RDBMS is required. Shall be conversant with software project development life cycle, standard and structure design methodologies and ability to use CASE tools. Project planning, coordination and strong interpersonal and supervisory skills are essential.

Job #3: Database Administrator (Ref. DBA/KSA/97)

Salary: Dhs.10,463/- per month including transport allowance.
Requirements: Graduate in Computer Science or related discipline with a minimum of 7 years experience in developing complex databases. Familiarity with UNIX, NT and sound knowledge of Relational Database technology and excellent command of the SQL programming language and operating system.

Job #4: Computer Systems Analyst (Ref. CSA/KSA/97)

Salary: Dhs. 9,028/- per month including transport allowance.
Requirements: Graduate in Computer Science or related discipline with a minimum of 5 years experience in application software development. The incumbent will be a member of the development team for the Management Information Systems. Knowledge of UNIX, RDBMS and experience in developing Management Information Systems are essential. Experience in OLAP and multi-dimensional databases is an added advantage.

Job #5: Analyst/Programmer (Ref. AP/MIS/KSA/97)

Salary: Dhs. 5,597/- per month including transport allowance.
Requirements: Graduate in Computer Science or related discipline with a minimum of 3 years experience in developing business applications. The incumbent is expected to be familiar with software development life cycle and shall possess skills in application design, preparing program specifications, coding/documentation and testing. Knowledge of UNIX, RDBMS and experience in developing Management Information Systems are essential. Experience in OLAP and multi-dimensional databases is an added advantage.

Job #6: Analyst/Programmer (Ref. AP/KSA/97)

Salary: Dhs. 5,597/- per month including transport allowance.
Requirements: Graduate in Computer Science or related discipline with a minimum of 4 years experience in developing - business applications using RDBMS and SQL (preferably INGRES). The incumbent is expected to be familiar with software development life cycle and shall possess skills in Application design, preparing program specifications, coding/documentation and testing. A thorough knowledge of 4GL and C languages is essential. Shall have the ability to use Case tools and standard structured design methodologies. Experience in developing GUI based front-end systems would be an advantage.

Job #7: Chief Supervisor Personalisation Centre (Ref. CSPC/KSA/97)

Salary: Dhs. 4,708/- per month including transport allowance.
Requirements: Degree in Computer Science or equivalent qualification with a minimum of 3 years experience in programming using C++ language and in Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMS) preferably INGRES. Sound knowledge of C++ programming and good command of UNIX - preferably SUN SOLARIS 2.X. To develop and maintain the programs and operational procedures for the personalisation of GSM (Hardware & Software).

Other Benefits:
Positions Nos. 1 to 4 provide: Free furnished accommodation, 44 days annual leave, air tickets for employee and eligible dependents, educational assistance and terminal gratuity.
Positions Nos. 5 to 7 provide: Furnished family accommodation, 36 days annual leave, air tickets for employee and eligible dependents and terminal gratuity.

All Etisalat staff are covered under Group Medical Insurance Scheme.
Interested candidates should apply with detailed C.V. and a recent passport size photograph giving telephone & fax nos. within 10 days from the date of this advertisement mentioning job reference on the application and envelope, to:

The Senior Recruitment Officer
P.O. Box 3838,
Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Advance copy may be faxed to (+971-2) 214 555/317 000

LET

A ground floor apartment with a separate entrance (furnished or unfurnished) is available for rent. Area 300 sq. metres. The apartment, part of a building of two floors only, consists of: 3 bedrooms, maid's room, 4 bathrooms, sitting room, living room, dining room and well-equipped kitchen, 3 verandas telephone, garden and a garage.
For more details please contact owner on Tel: 642895 between 8-10 a.m. & 1-5 p.m.

MERCEDES FOR SALE DUTY UNPAID

- 200E, 93, Bornte, automatic transmission, sunroof, power windows, powerlock, Baker stereo.....
- 200 E, 93, Almendine Red, Air-condition, Cruise control, power windows, powerlock. Plus other options

Both cars in very good condition
Call: 079/29477 or 815381, Mazen



TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF COWS Cooperative Society For Cattle Breeders - Zarqa

The Cooperative Society for the Cattle Breeders in Zarqa announces the tender to buy 500 pregnant heifers to produce milk provided its origin is from a single country of Holstein Friesian (black and white) in accordance with the conditions and specifications mentioned in the tender.
Payment: By equal 12 monthly instalment minimum.
Interested people can visit the society offices to obtain a copy of the free tender.
The deadline for accepting tenders February 15, 1997.
N.B. Advertisement fees should be borne by whoever wins the tender.
Address: Tel: 914616, 914617, 914615, Fax: 914095
Management Committee Secretary Sabri Al-Amuri

JOB VACANCY

A non-profit organisation is seeking to recruit bright young entrepreneur with lots of energy for a management position:

Responsibilities: Lead, plan, organise, design, manage and control all phases of the organisation and its development into a sustainable microfinance institution.

Qualifications: Bachelor degree in analytical field, MBA strongly preferred; ability to train and manage team; experience in Community Development and prior management experience preferred but not required; knowledge of computers; excellent interpersonal and analytical skills; and demonstrable business skills required. Fluency in English and Arabic also required.
If interested, please send your CV to Fax 612902

WANTED A YOUNG UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

A foreign international company is looking to employ a young university graduate, age around 23 years, fluent in as many languages as possible, however, fluency in Arabic and English is a must. The successful candidate shall be trained by the company to become an international trader. Location shall be probably in Amman, but training shall take place abroad.
Applicants shall send a curriculum vitae with a phone number to the following address:
P.O.Box 815409, Amman 11180

Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC)

announces to sell its (40,000) shares in the Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company.

Interested investors are requested to submit their offers with the following conditions.

- * Sealed envelop application.
- * Minimum number of shares to buy is 10,000 shares.
- * Bank guarantee 5% of the total value of shares to be bought to the JIC account.
- * All offers should be submitted before 12 noon Saturday, 22 Feb. 1997.

For further information, please contact JIC, Jabal Amman, 7th Circle, attention Director General
Tel: 816181/5 Fax: 816915 Amman

TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "1"

Eddie Murphy & Angela Bassett.... in
VAMPIRE IN BROOKLYN

Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "2"

Michael Douglas & Annette Bening... in
THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT

Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA

Keanu Reeves & Dolph Lundgren...in
Johnny Mnemonic

Shows: 12:00, 2:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
SEVEN
Shows: 12:15, 2:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD "2"
Coming Soon... "Custom made Citizen"
The satirical play starring Mousa Hijazin

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre
TEL: 625155

The theatre opens on the
Ramadan Holiday
with the new play entitled
Aman.. Ya Ho

TOKYO (R) — Toronto Raptors coach Dan Ainge says his team will be looking to win the first round of the playoffs.

The Raptors scored 17 points in the first quarter and led 17-10 at the end of the first half.

The Raptors won the second round of the playoffs, defeating the Portland Trail Blazers 101-87.

The Raptors won the first round of the playoffs, defeating the Los Angeles Lakers 101-87.

The Raptors won the second round of the playoffs, defeating the Phoenix Suns 101-87.

The Raptors won the third round of the playoffs, defeating the San Antonio Spurs 101-87.

The Raptors won the fourth round of the playoffs, defeating the Dallas Mavericks 101-87.

The Raptors won the fifth round of the playoffs, defeating the Houston Rockets 101-87.

The Raptors won the sixth round of the playoffs, defeating the New York Knicks 101-87.

The Raptors won the seventh round of the playoffs, defeating the Chicago Bulls 101-87.

The Raptors won the eighth round of the playoffs, defeating the Philadelphia 76ers 101-87.

The Raptors won the ninth round of the playoffs, defeating the Washington Wizards 101-87.

The Raptors won the tenth round of the playoffs, defeating the Miami Heat 101-87.

The Raptors won the eleventh round of the playoffs, defeating the Atlanta Hawks 101-87.

The Raptors won the twelfth round of the playoffs, defeating the New Jersey Nets 101-87.

The Raptors won the thirteenth round of the playoffs, defeating the Cleveland Cavaliers 101-87.

The Raptors won the fourteenth round of the playoffs, defeating the Indiana Pacers 101-87.

The Raptors won the fifteenth round of the playoffs, defeating the Detroit Pistons 101-87.

The Raptors won the sixteenth round of the playoffs, defeating the Orlando Magic 101-87.

The Raptors won the seventeenth round of the playoffs, defeating the Charlotte Hornets 101-87.

The Raptors won the eighteenth round of the playoffs, defeating the Memphis Grizzlies 101-87.

The Raptors won the nineteenth round of the playoffs, defeating the Sacramento Kings 101-87.

The Raptors won the twentieth round of the playoffs, defeating the Utah Jazz 101-87.

The Raptors won the twenty-first round of the playoffs, defeating the Minnesota Timberwolves 101-87.

The Raptors won the twenty-second round of the playoffs, defeating the New Orleans Hornets 101-87.

The Raptors won the twenty-third round of the playoffs, defeating the San Diego Clippers 101-87.

The Raptors won the twenty-fourth round of the playoffs, defeating the Los Angeles Lakers 101-87.

The Raptors won the twenty-fifth round of the playoffs, defeating the Phoenix Suns 101-87.

The Raptors won the twenty-sixth round of the playoffs, defeating the Houston Rockets 101-87.

The Raptors won the twenty-seventh round of the playoffs, defeating the New York Knicks 101-87.

The Raptors won the twenty-eighth round of the playoffs, defeating the Chicago Bulls 101-87.

The Raptors won the twenty-ninth round of the playoffs, defeating the Philadelphia 76ers 101-87.

Raptors win by biggest margin in club history

TORONTO (R) — Toronto Raptors coach Darrell Walker just hopes it's for real.

Doug Christie scored 17 of his career-high 33 points in the first quarter and fuelled a pair of first-half bursts that gave the second-year Raptors the biggest victory in franchise history, 120-84 over the Portland Trail Blazers Tuesday.

Walt Williams added 24 points and rookie Marcus Camby 18 for the Raptors. Continental Basketball Association signee Reggie Slater scored 15 points and Damon Stoudamire added 11 and 13 assists for the Raptors. Clifford Rozier, another CBA signee, got 13 rebounds.

"The guys played well. The whole team played great," Toronto coach Darrell Walker said. "Reggie Slater played great. He gave us a presence in the post."

"I hope it's for real. We shot the ball, we rebounded. That's what I've been saying all year. If we do those things, we've got a chance."

The 36-point margin doubled Toronto's previous best of 18 points, accomplished twice last season. In Vancouver, Michael Jordan scored 28 points and Scottie Pippen added 24 as the Chicago Bulls won their fourth straight with a 111-96 rout of the Grizzlies, a matchup that featured the league's best and worst teams.

Chicago (38-5) improved its league-best road record to 17-4. Bryant Reeves had 18 points and 12 rebounds to lead Vancouver (8-38), which fell to 6-20 at home.

At Indiana, Glen Rice scored 30 points and Vlade Divac added 14 points, 11 rebounds and six assists as the Charlotte Hornets bounced back from their worst loss of the season to defeat the Pacers 98-97.

Rice, who had a streak of 30-point games snapped at

five in a 106-73 loss to the Cavaliers Saturday, sealed the win by grabbing a key rebound and hitting a pair of free throws in the final four seconds.

Reggie Miller scored 26 points for Indiana, which has dropped three straight.

In New York, Chris Childs' only basket of the game, a three-pointer with 8.4 seconds to play, lifted the Knicks to their 18th straight victory over the Boston Celtics, 109-107.

Antoine Walker had 27 points and 16 rebounds but Celtics guard Todd Day missed a three-pointer at the buzzer as Boston fell to a league-worst 1-16 on the road and 0-12 against divisional foes.

Allan Houston had 25 points and Charles Oakley added 20 and 14 rebounds as the Knicks won their 15th straight home game. New York has not lost to Boston at Madison Square Garden since January 10, 1993.

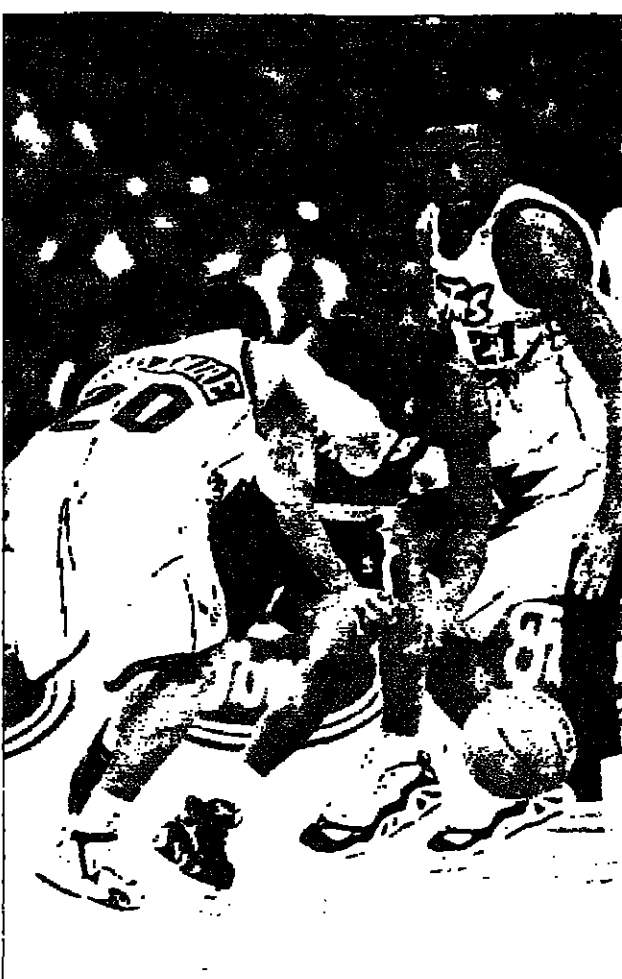
At Utah, Karl Malone had 28 points and 13 rebounds and Jeff Hornacek scored 27 points to lead the Jazz to their fourth straight victory, 114-99 over the Denver Nuggets.

The Jazz have won seven straight home games and all three meetings with the Nuggets this season.

Laphonso Ellis scored 23 points and Mark Jackson notched his second triple-double of the season with 20 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for the Nuggets.

In Dallas, Shaquille O'Neal scored 31 points and grabbed 10 rebounds and Nick Van Exel added 19 points as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the short-handed Mavericks 102-83.

Jamal Mashburn scored 26 points for Dallas, which was without leading scorer Chris Gatling, suspended for one game following a dispute with coach Jim Clemons, and guard Sam Cassell was sidelined with a bruised left thigh.



Portland Trail Blazers' guard Kenny Anderson (C) splits the defence of Toronto Raptors' guard Damon Stoudamire (L) and forward Marcus Camby (R) during first quarter NBA action in Toronto. (Reuters photo)

At Minnesota, Kevin Gamble scored seven of his 10 points in the fourth quarter when the Sacramento Kings erased a 12-point deficit and rallied for a 91-88 victory over the Timberwolves, who were scoreless in the final three minutes.

Mitch Richmond scored 28 points for the Kings. At Washington, Juwan Howard had 26 points and 10 rebounds and Tracy Murray added 18 points off the bench as the Bulls broke open a close game midway through the third quarter and beat the Orlando Magic 102-82.

Chris Webber recorded 17 points and 14 rebounds and George Mursan added 12 and 14, helping the Bulls to a 53-37 rebounding edge. In Los Angeles, Mookie Blaylock scored 34 points to lead the Atlanta Hawks to

their third straight victory, a 112-96 trouncing of the Clippers.

Los Angeles has lost six of its last eight games.

In Milwaukee, Grant Hill recorded 22 points and eight rebounds and Lindsey Hunter added 17 points as the Detroit Pistons won their third straight, 93-84 over the Bucks.

Vin Baker got 18 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for Milwaukee.

At New Jersey, Terrell Brandon scored 18 points and Bobby Phillips 16 as the Cleveland Cavaliers held the Nets to their lowest point total in NBA franchise history, 84-62.

Cleveland had lost eight of its last 10 games.

Kendall Gill tallied 19 points for New Jersey, which has dropped three straight, five of six and nine of 11.

In preparation for World Cup qualifiers Kingdom's national soccer team leaves for Beirut Friday

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's national soccer team leave for Beirut Friday where they will play the first of two friendly matches against the Lebanese national team Sunday in preparation for their upcoming World Cup qualifiers which start April 8 in Manama, Bahrain.

Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) secretary Hisham Asfour said the Lebanese team will play in Amman Feb. 6 before the Kingdom's team travels to Baghdad for an extensive training camp March 9-28 where they will also play three matches.

Mr. Asfour said the other friendlies include two against Syria, March 16 in Amman and March 23 in Damascus, while the matches against the Omani team will be held in Muscat March 8 and 11.

Jordan had last played the Lebanese team in 1993 losing 1-0 in Beirut and winning 4-1 in Irbid.

The JSF had allocated almost JD 66,000 to prepare the national team who have been in a training camp in Amman for the past month.

Thirty-six Asian countries will contest the first round World Cup qualifiers and have been divided into ten groups.

Jordan will be playing in Group 3 alongside the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

The top team in each of the 10 groups will qualify for

the second round where the teams will be divided into two groups.

The first two from each group will then contest the Asian finals.

The first three qualify directly for the 1998 World Cup in France while the winner of a play-off between the fourth team and the Oceania Zone winner will also qualify.

The Kingdom's team includes Ahmad Abu Nasouh, Mu'taz Rishah, Mohammad Abu Daoud, Yousef Ammouri, Amjad Taher, Mohammad Khaz'ali, Isam Mahmoud, Abdallah Abu Zame'h, Faisal Ibrahim, Hussein Shananeh, Abdallah Shiyab, Ra'fat Ali, Adnan Awad, Raed Momani, Bassam Al Khatib, Aref Hussein, Khaled Yousef, Munir Abu Hantash, Nari Yada, Walid Abdul Rahman.

Seven of Al Faisali's players, currently on leave to take part in their Arab Champion Cup in Morocco next month, will not join the national team's match in Beirut. They are Ahmad Khalil, Mohammad Mahadin, Jamal Abu Abed, Subhi Suleiman, Ja'far Hamad, Hasounah Sheikh, Jiryes Tadros.

Al Faisali will join Arab Cup champs Morocco's Olympic Khreibkeh, Arab Clubs champions Egypt's Al Ahli, and runner-up Morocco's Al Raja.

Head coach Mohammad Awad said the seven might join the team starting with the matches in Oman.

Kanchelskis set to move from Everton to Fiorentina

FLORENCE (AFP) — Thursday. Fiorentina managing director Luciano Luna said: "Kanchelskis has always been one of our objectives. On Monday night, we made a substantial offer to Everton. Now we're waiting for an answer."

Fiorentina, who claim to have Kanchelskis' agreement for the move, tabled the offer in a fax to the Merseyside club.

Depending on Everton's response, top Italian officials will be flying to England later on Wednesday. Fiorentina face a race against time as the transfer market here closes at midnight on

Thursday. Fiorentina managing director Luciano Luna said: "Kanchelskis has always been one of our objectives. On Monday night, we made a substantial offer to Everton. Now we're waiting for an answer."

But he added: "We hope to wrap everything up by January 30, so that he can start straight away. However, we're also willing to buy him after January 30. He's of interest to us for the present and for the future."

Club president (Vittorio) Cecchi Gori has always been willing to strengthen the squad so that, in the future, it can be guaranteed of making a leap forward in terms of quality.

He went on: "We've already agreed terms with Kanchelskis over salary and the length of the contract" — which is believed to be 600,000 pounds net a season until 2001, plus bonuses.

Fiorentina coach Claudio Ranieri has been impressed with the Russian winger after watching recent tapes of

him in action. The Italians hope that, playing alongside Argentine ace Gabriel Batistuta, Kanchelskis would give them a chance of finishing second in the Serie A this season and earning a place in the expanded champions league.

Everton, rocked by Saturday's stunning FA Cup defeat to first division strugglers Bradford — have lost six matches in a row, with Kanchelskis hampered by injury and loss of form.

World Cup win

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"I'd like to show that this ability to give good performance in competition want to show I had some in my mind to keep time very hard for the last years."

Lu was one of the Chinese winners of the day of the two was more fifth leg of the World E series in 25 minutes.

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Information, please contact: Nabil & Hisham's Theatre, Amman, 7th Circle. Attention Director General 18181/5 Fax: 816915 Amman

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL 607100

The theatre opens on the Ramadan Holiday with the new play entitled Aman.. Ya Ho

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